

NEWSLETTER

NEXT EVENTS

DISTRICT SURPRISE PRACTICE

Thursday 18 November SOUTH WEALD 7.30pm

CALL CHANGE COMPETITION & MEETING

Saturday 20 November Orsett 2.30pm start

ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY

Saturday 27 November

DISTRICT EVENING PRACTICE

Thursday 25 November –Brentwood, 7.30pm

DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 11 December SOUTH WEALD 3.30pm

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Saturday 22 January Thorpe Bay 3.00pm



St Mary, South Benfleet

Many people have never heard of the Battle of Benfleet, but you will find it mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles. In 893 AD King Alfred the Great's son Edward and son-in-law fought a decisive battle with the Vikings who had settled here under Haesten. Evidence of the burning of the Viking long boats was found during the building of the railway and it is believed that an earlier church on the site would have suffered the same fate. Tradition has it that the foundation stones of the existing church were laid in 894 AD to mark this event.

In 1994 the 1100th anniversary of this event was commemorated by the congregation and the people of Benfleet with a year of celebrations including a magnificent pageant!

The church which you can now see has been added to over the years, by the many people that have worshipped here. There are many features of architectural interest, including one of the oldest timber porches in England.

*The tower has a ring of 6 bells 11¾ cwt tenor
Ringing is 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.*

CONTACTS

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DISTRICT SURPRISE MAJOR PRACTICE

Methods for the Surprise Practice on November 18th at South Weald (7.30pm) : Lincolnshire and London for the brave! do come along if you ring (or would like to learn to ring) surprise.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Vic Dale from South Weald on his 80th birthday. A quarter peal was rung at St Peter's South Weald:

3rd October

1280 Plain Bob Major

Ronald J Brown 1

Rowena L Marshall 2

Beth Johnson 3

Vic J C Dale 4

Maria T Jorysz 5

Paul R Trueman 6

Ian H Jorysz (C) 7

John G Harpole 8



Here is Vic with a musical cake slice in the Tower Arms on his birthday evening.

NEWSLETTERS

Please send any and all reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, Tel: 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

End April- copy 15 April

Mid Aug - copy 31 July

End Oct - copy 15 Oct

End of Dec - copy 15 Dec

Congratulations to Stephen Nash on his 1000th quarter

22 August 2010 Fobbing, Essex

1272 Annable's London Surprise Minor

1 Dennis Stott

2 Cathryn Corns

3 Gordon Lucas

4 David Belcham

5 Andrew Martin

6 Stephen Nash (C)

1st in method :- 1,2,5,6 1000th Quarter :- 6

Great Wakering

Great Wakering's Tower Captain has grown a pumpkin as big as Great Wakering's treble! It was entered in the local Produce Show and won 3rd prize. Our Treasurer's flapjacks won 1st prize but didn't last long enough for a photo! Well done Tim & Sally!



Southern District Call Change Competition & Quarterly meeting

Saturday November 20th at Orsett

Draw 2.30pm All welcome

Test piece 5 minutes of call changes including "Queens" and "Tittums"

Followed by service, tea and business meeting

Please let Alison Nash, District secretary, if you are entering a team

Numbers for tea by Wednesday 17th November to Alison
(Tel; 01268 490061.)

The Ringing World's Centenary Celebrations

Those of you who read *The Ringing World* will be aware that our journal will be 100 years old on 24th March 2011, and that a day of celebrations is being planned in London on the nearest Saturday – 26th March. The activities announced to date include:

- Whitechapel Bell Foundry open
- Various towers open for ringing
- Tours of Westminster Abbey
- Service at Westminster Abbey, followed by a Grand Ringers' Gathering in the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Full details are available at <http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/>, and are being published in *The Ringing World*.

One special event is The Ringing World National Youth Contest, taking place at St Saviour's Church Pimlico from 10:00. This is an 8 bell striking competition for ringers aged 19 and under on the 7 cwt eight. Bands can choose to ring major, triples or call changes. It is hoped that one or more bands representing the Essex Association will enter. If any of our younger ringers are interested, then please contact the district master or secretary, or the EACR public relations officer (Tracey Southgate) via pro@eacr.org.uk. Practices will be organised beforehand.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH

SOUTH WEALD RINGING 3.30

SERVICE 4.30PM

Come along for a ring, a sing and a mince pie!

Parking Problems

Brentwood & South Weald

In and around St. Thomas' Brentwood there are double yellow lines practically everywhere and the traffic wardens are out, even on Sunday mornings and to make matters worse, some local traders with off-street parking have employed a clamping firm to catch the unwary. They demand about £200 release fee.

Do be careful if visiting St Thomas' to check parking restrictions.

At St Peter's South Weald the car park is generally locked at 7pm but is kept open for ringing evenings.

Association Training Day

This year's training day is on Saturday 27th November and is being hosted by the North West District.

There are four groups on offer:

- Preparation for Method Ringing – improving your basic skills
- Plain Hunt Doubles and Ringing the Treble to Plain Doubles Methods
- Plain Bob Doubles and Minor
- Grandsire Doubles

If you wish to take part as a student in any of the above groups please use this link for the application form on the EACR Website and to obtain more information about each of them.

<http://www.eacr.org.uk/training/tday2010.shtml>

Helpers are needed for all four groups and the success of the day depends on enough volunteers. Please use the reply to sender option on this email or contact Liz Rayner on 020 8534 6726 or 07936 460302 if you can help on this day or for part of it.

EACR at the Essex Country Show

Barleylands (Billericay) 11th-12th September 2010

How often have you had that casual conversation in the ringing room that goes along the lines of 'of course you know what you should really do ...?'

Well, that's how this all got started and I blame Tony Lowe from Rayleigh (in the nicest possible way, of course!). I was helping at a tower open day when he suggested that in line with all the other country show type events EACR has supported this summer, we should try to get some space at Barleylands (Billericay) in September. That was at the end of July. I sent off the application form on the off-chance, and fully expected to be told that this year's stand allocation had already been committed. However, to my great surprise and pleasure, the organisers emailed me back and said they'd love us to take part. Result!

Now, I had less than six weeks to arrange the equipment and helpers. This bit is never easy, but due to the tight deadline, this time it was even trickier. Lots of local ringers were taking late holidays as children had just returned to their schools after the summer break, or there were tower open days, or weddings and tours etc which had already been planned. We did come perilously close to calling the whole thing off at one point. It was such a great opportunity, and we were determined to make the most of it. So Alison Nash and I dug in for another round of emails and telephone calls, and bit by bit we got there.



Chris Stirland from Terling putting a prospective new recruit through her paces

On the Friday evening before the show started myself, Andy and his son Harry, together with Tony Lowe from Rayleigh, set the equipment up. It was hard work but a great source of fun and camaraderie, and a chance for a last minute bit of father and son bonding (and messing about) before Harry went off to University in Manchester. So special thanks to Harry for his help (and good luck with your studies at Uni by the way).

Alistair Donaldson again let us borrow the Maplestead mini-ring and his handbells, and all the other display equipment was close at hand. Alistair was on holiday at the time of the event, so we had quite a mini-ring relay going on in order to get the kit to the show ground. It took several days to move it from Great Maplestead to Harwich, then on to Brentwood, Stanford-le-Hope and then finally to the show ground. I'm enormously grateful to Alistair, my husband Dave and Andy Martin from Langdon Hills for all their help with that. That really was over and above the call of duty, but with so much at stake, sometimes you just have to quite literally, go the extra mile.



Helper Hilary 'I've Got the Hang of It' Donoghue from Downham

Saturday morning dawned, and the Show was buzzing with all manner of events from vintage steam engines, tractors and carousels; craft marquees; sheep shearing shows; working heavy horses and other arena events together with the rural demonstration area which was where we were pitched.

Some of our helpers for the two days were also new to taking part in a ringing exhibition. So they learned a great deal in terms of how to engage with the public, and how to come across enthusiastically without being too eager and scaring people off. The team also learned how to use the mini ring and then demonstrate it, and how to lap with handbells and then show young children, the elderly and handicapped. That is such a simple thing to do and the children absolutely love it. It's always a joy to see their pretty little painted faces light up at the sound of the music they are helping to make, and the less able find it equally enjoyable.



One excited little lady having a go with the handbells

So the event served a two-fold purpose and will hopefully make it easier for us to find willing and able volunteer helpers for events like this in the future. Over the two days we took serious enquiries about learning to ring from people living as far north as Colchester, around the centre of the County in the Chelmsford area, then down to Grays, Hornchurch and Basildon in the south. We also exchanged details with visitors from West Sussex, Rochford in Kent and Lewisham. I shall be passing on the details to the respective tower captains in Essex, and also to our friends in neighbouring Guilds and Associations to ensure that these are followed up with visits to ringing rooms and maybe even a lesson.

I'm so glad we didn't give up on this event, despite the obstacles that were in the way. It would have been so easy to pull the plug on this, but look at

what a fantastic weekend we had! My team of helpers were extremely helpful to say the least and often jumped in without needing to be asked, which makes my role so much easier. Some members happened to be at the show on standby for something else, but spent the day with us helping! How's that for enthusiasm?

As a relatively seasoned campaigner myself, I continue to watch and learn from my peers and from my own experiences too. I never cease to be amazed by just what can be achieved if we all put our minds to it. I left the showground on Sunday evening very tired, very pleased with the way things had gone and very grateful for all the help I'd received. And, I have to say, more than a little bit inspired and encouraged to do more of the same next year.

So, my thanks to them all; Alistair Donaldson, Andy and Harry Martin, John Harpole, Hilary Donoghue, Tony Lowe, Roy Jones, John Cousins, Simon Higgins, Chris Stirland, Michael Warren, Jack Lincoln, and Roger Hobson. Thanks also to Alison Nash, Southern District Secretary, for all her help in finding me such a great bunch of helpers.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to my other support network, namely my husband for his forbearance (poor man!), and to my parents for allowing me to stay at their home for the duration of the show. That saved me a considerable amount of time and travelling, and allowed me to get on with what I needed to do. Love to you all xxx.

Tracey Southgate

Public Relations Officer 13th September 2010



Ray Jones showing Simon Higgins, John Harpole and Hilary Donoghue how to 'lap'.

Revised EACR Rules

Since October 2009, a sub-committee comprising of Mary Bone, Andrew Brewster, Colin Chapman and David Sparling has been undertaking a thorough review of the current Objects and Rules of the Essex Association. A draft version of the new rules were made available to the Executive Committee for their meeting in early October, and are now available via the Association website at <http://eacr.org.uk/newrules.shtml>. On the website you will be able to see an overview of the proposed changes to the rules, a complete listing of the proposed rules and a comparison with the existing rules.

All members now have the opportunity to review the proposed rules and any comments should be emailed to drafrules@eacr.org.uk or posted direct to Colin Chapman (see Annual Report) by 30 November 2010.

The complete listing of the proposed rules is attached.

The sub-committee will then consider all the comments that have been received and make any changes as they see fit. We will then receive an updated version of the proposed rules for us to discuss at our district ADM in January, where it is planned that a member of the sub-committee will be present to answer any questions.

Following the district ADMs, the February Executive Committee will then decide if they will be proposed as a formal motion at the Association AGM on 02 May 2011. At the AGM, assuming the change of rules is proposed, the motion will be to accept the Rules as a complete set; while amendments to the proposal can be made, this will not be the place to change individual rules.

John Harpole

Notes from EACR Executive Committee Meeting

The Association's Executive Committee, comprised of the Association officers, appointed officers, central council representatives, life vice presidents and district officers, met at Danbury on Saturday 9th October. Below are some notes from the meeting.

- Annual Dinner was held at Chelmsford on 2nd October, attended by 65 members and guests, and made a small surplus. Yet again the secretary expressed her disappointment at the lack of numbers present. It was agreed to try and form a social committee that would be responsible for organising the dinner, and other association social events, and to try to encourage more members to attend in the future
- South West district reported that they had made over £1000 from their tower open day on August 30th
- Essex Ringing course. It was agreed that the Association would purchase 2 projectors for use at the course and other EACR events, using money accumulated in the Harry Turner Fund. Volunteers were needed to organise party games at the Friday night social and to organise the helpers, after both Anne Bray and Yvonne Towler have indicated that they wanted to stop doing this after having done so for several years. If volunteers are not forthcoming these vital tasks may have to be added to the district rota. Course fees for 2011 will remain at £40.
- The treasurer advised that no increase in subscriptions would be required to cover expenses in 2011. The amount of interest the Association receives on its bank account has dropped dramatically over the last 2 years, affecting the money available in the Bell Restoration Account for making grants; approval was given for him to open a CAF Platinum 3 month notice account to maximise the interest received
- The following officers were appointed for 2011:

Chaplain - Rev Ian Jorysz

Report Editor - Colin Chapman

Peals Secretary - Colin Chapman

Hon. Technical Advisor - Paul Bray

Education Officer - Liz Rayner

Public Relations Office - Tracey Southgate

Newsletter Editor - Anne Bray

Essex Ring Course Convenor - Mary Bone

Child Protection Officer - Stephen Nash

Web Master - Fred Bone

- Grant Applications. None have now been received, and Holy Cross, South Ockendon have now withdrawn their application as they have received a substantial donation to cover the remaining costs of their project to install a ring of 8; it is hoped that the bells will be installed in September 2011
- Review of association rules – see article above
- Membership qualification. It was agreed that the best way to implement the rule disqualifying individuals from membership whose name appears on the Sex Offenders Register is to change the membership form so that the applicant has to confirm that they have read and satisfy the Association's membership eligibility criteria. It will also be compulsory for all prospective members (including those elected prior to peal attempts) to complete and sign an application form. The Treasurer promised to send out an updated form before the end of the year (now available)

MINUTES

Meeting at Hutton

Saturday 18th September 2010

1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present including two non members from Ingrave, Jackie Chann and Liz Atkins and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 24 Southern District members present.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked Lay Reader, Mrs Christine Thomas, for taking the service and Nick Rayner for playing the organ. He also thanked Renée Page-Jones and her band of helpers for the use of the bells and for the excellent tea.

The service touch was Stedman Doubles rung by Cathryn Corns, Stephen Nash, Vic Dale, Mike Hallett, and John Harpole.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 11 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Fobbing on 20th March 2010 were printed in the April Newsletter, and also circulated at the meeting. There being no amendments, they were signed as a true copy.

5. Matters Arising

(a) District Public Relations Officer – This position was still vacant. Again, there was no volunteer for this post at this meeting.

(b) Quarter Peal Fortnight – There were 20 quarter peals scored from 15 towers. This has been recorded in The Ringing World and a fantastic amount of £221 was raised for the new ring of bells in the Roman Catholic Church at South Ockendon. Rowena Marshal recorded special thanks to 6 people who helped out at other towers. Rowena had received a letter of thanks from Fr. Phil Denton, the Parish Priest, which was read out at the meeting.

(c) Rule Change on Election of New Members – The Master, John Harpole, read out a statement which he had prepared on behalf of himself and the District Secretary. The Master referred to the email he had sent out the previous weekend stating that no nominations for membership would be accepted at the meeting. He explained that both he and the secretary felt that the district would not be able to elect any new members until they had received guidance from the Association officers on how to implement the rule change that had been passed at the Association AGM, prohibiting anyone whose name appears on the Sex Offenders Register from becoming a member. The Master had sought advice from the Association officers, but received conflicting views. He promised to raise the issue at the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting, so that all districts can reach a consensus on how to implement the rule ready for the district ADMs in January. He apologised if the decision to not accept any nominations for membership had stopped anyone from being proposed at the meeting. If anyone would like to see the full text of the statement, please contact the Master or Secretary directly.

Robin Page-Jones agreed with the statement and agreed it was an unworkable rule change as it was impossible to find out who was on the Sex Offenders Register, as it was believed that only the Police were able to access the Register. The Child Protection Officer, Stephen Nash, explained that after the AGM in May, he had a meeting with the senior association officers and Rev. Jean Halliday (the Diocesan Child Protection Advisor), but nothing was agreed as to how to implement the rule.

(d) There is still a vacant position on the Grants Application Committee for a member of this district. Stephen Nash volunteered for this. Stephen is to approach Paul Bray, Association Technical Advisor, who is leading this committee.

(e) Thanks were recorded to the towers open for the afternoon of the AGM namely, Downham, Rettendon, Eastwood, Rochford, and Canewdon. Special thanks go to the Eastwood ringers and friends for providing tea.

(f) The District Striking Competition took place on Saturday 15th May at Shenfield. Thanks were recorded to the excellent judges – John and Helen Harpole! Langdon Hills won the competition and South Weald came second. Unfortunately, South Weald were unable to attend the finals and Prittlewell, placed 3rd, took their place. At the finals – Langdon Hills were placed 6th and Prittlewell 7th. The 8 bell competition was held at Great Bentley. The set piece was 264 Gainsborough Little Bob Major and our District was placed 2nd. The ringers were Julia Jones, Penny Sloman, David Sloman, Andrew Beech, Stephen Nash, Andy Martin, Nigel Taylor and John Harpole.

(g) Rayleigh tower repairs had started in March and should have been completed by this meeting. Unfortunately, stonework at the top of the tower was found to be crumbling and the projected end of the work is now Easter 2011.

(h) Prittlewell bells were removed at the beginning of August. The building work by Bakers of Danbury started in the second week of August, and they are hoping to be finished by the end of November 2010.

(i) The District Outing took place on 12th June in the St Albans, Hertfordshire area. About 25 ringers and friends attended and £40 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund. Our thanks were recorded to the Master, John Harpole, who organised the event.

6. Correspondence

The Secretary, Alison Nash, had received an email from the Public Relations Officer, Tracey Southgate, thanking the District for their help at the Essex Country Show at Barleylands, Billericay on the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September. Tracey had been able to secure a place for the Association at short notice. There was a mini ring and handbells and volunteers from our District helped out. There were quite a few members of the public who had put their names forward to learn to ring. These details have been passed on to the towers nearest their home. Tracey is hoping to secure a place for next year. Keep a date in your diaries for the second weekend in September – Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 2011.

The Secretary had received a second email from the PRO Officer which stated she had been contacted by a David Randall, who is involved in the Billericay Rotary Club, and he approached her with a view to taking part in the Billericay Christmas Market. His email was read out to the meeting and it was agreed that an advert for helpers would be put into the next newsletter.

7. Training

Cathryn Corns had not been approached by anyone wanting any training. She thought for next year a specific training event on a specific day should be organised to see if this was helpful.

8. Future Events

2nd October – Annual Dinner

16th October – District Afternoon Practice at South Benfleet, 3-5pm

18th November – Surprise Practice at South Weald, 7.30pm

20th November – Call Change Competition and District Meeting at Orsett 2.30pm start

25th November – District Evening Practice at Brentwood, 7.30pm

27th November – Association Training Day, 9.30am at Henham

11th December – District Carol Service at South Weald, ringing from 3.30pm

22nd January 2011 – Annual District Meeting at Thorpe Bay, 3pm

9. Any Other Business

The District Officers will soon be planning for 2011. If there is anything you wish added to the 2011 calendar, please let us know.

Planned events for 2011 – Do we want a Quarter Peal Fortnight? If so, do we want it sponsored? Do we still want the District Practices at Brentwood? The Surprise Practices at South Weald are well attended, so they will continue.

It would be nice if we could have a District Practice in the Southend area.

Does anyone have any ideas for location of the next District Outing?

The next newsletter is due out in October. So any information you wish the district to know about, please contact Beth Johnson.

If anyone has changed or now has an email address, please let a district officer know and we can include you in our messages to the district.

Mark Robbins, Treasurer, would appreciate all those members who have not paid their 2010 membership money to please do so.

The collection raised - £45.10 Raffle - £37.90 Profit from Tea - £25

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Essex Association of Change Ringers
Draft Rules at 09 October 2010

- 1 The **ASSOCIATION** shall be called '**THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS**'.
- 2 The **OBJECTS** of the Association shall be:
 - (a) to encourage the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship; and to encourage the recognition of ringers as Church workers;
 - (b) to encourage fellowship and communication among ringers;
 - (c) to recruit and train new ringers, so that there may be regular service ringing in all the towers within the Association's boundaries where the bells are ringable;
 - (d) the promotion of the art of change ringing; and
 - (e) to promote interest in the care of all the bells and provision of new bells within the Association's boundaries.
- 3 **THE ASSOCIATION** shall be registered with the **CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES** (registration number 292250).
- 4 **THE ASSOCIATION** shall be affiliated to the **CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS** and loyally abide by the rules and decisions thereof.
- 5 **THE PRESIDENT** shall be the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford. The Vice-Presidents shall be the Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral, the Area Bishops, Honorary Assistant Bishops and Archdeacons of the Diocese.
- 6 **The ASSOCIATION** shall be **GOVERNED** by the Association Trustees (defined in Rule 13) advised by the Management Committee and administered by them through the Management Committee and its sub-committees, and through the Districts and their respective District Committees and District Meetings.
- 7 **THE BOUNDARIES** of the Association shall be those defining the geographical County of Essex prior to 1st April 1965 and shall include towers in adjacent counties which are by tradition affiliated to the Association. The Association shall be sub-divided into **SIX DISTRICTS**: Northern, North-Eastern, North-Western, Southern, South-Eastern and South-Western, the boundaries of which shall be regulated by the Management Committee.
- 8 **MEMBERSHIP**
 - 8.1 **MEMBERSHIP** shall be open to any person interested in bells and bellringing.
 - 8.2 Membership categories shall comprise the following:
 - (a) **RINGING MEMBERS** able to ring changes to a standard suitable for Sunday Service ringing on tower bells or to ring handbells. Changes shall be deemed to include method ringing, call changes and tenor cover on tower bells. Handbell ringers shall be capable of ringing methods on two bells retained in hand.
 - (b) **LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS** are Ringing Members honoured by the Association for their exemplary service and substantial contribution to operation of both a District and the Association for over 20 years.
 - (c) **LIFE MEMBERS** are Ringing Members or Friends honoured for their substantial contribution to their tower and district for an extended period (over 20 years) or who have been Ringing Members for at least 50 years.
 - (d) **NON-RESIDENT LIFE MEMBERS** who shall meet the criteria for Ringing Membership and who shall not be normally resident within the Association's boundaries. Ringing Members for five consecutive years, on moving from within the boundaries of the Association shall qualify as Non-Resident Life Members without election on payment of current subscriptions; Non-Resident Life Members on moving to within the boundaries of the Association shall qualify as Ringing Members without election, on payment of current subscriptions.
 - (e) **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION** who wish to be associated with and support the objects and activities of the Association but who are not eligible for membership under any other category.
 - 8.3 Members in categories 8.2 (a), (b) and (c), only, shall be entitled to vote at any meeting.
 - 8.4 Any person whose name appears on the Sex Offenders Register is not eligible to become or remain a member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers.
- 9 **SUBSCRIPTIONS**
 - 9.1 **SUBSCRIPTIONS** shall be due on election and subsequent annual subscriptions on 1st January. Members may become paid-up life members by paying not less than 20 times the annual subscription.
 - 9.2 Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 30th April each year shall not participate in or vote at meetings or ring peals until the subscription is paid and those not paid by 31st December shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the Annual Report for that year. Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership within one year on payment of arrears and the current year's subscription. After that lapsed members need to be re-elected in accordance with Rule 10.
 - 9.3 Ringing Members aged less than 18 years on 1st January shall be entitled to a 50% reduction in their subscriptions.
 - 9.4 Life Members and Life Vice-Presidents shall become free from further subscriptions upon election.
- 10 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS**
 - 10.1 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS** (except Life Vice-Presidents and Life Members) may take place at any business meeting. Prospective members shall apply using the prescribed Application Form and may only be elected

- by a majority vote of members present. Election is only completed on payment of subscriptions.
- 10.2 Ringing Members and Non-Resident Life Members may be provisionally elected prior to a peal attempt by two Ringing Members of the Association and ratified at the next business meeting, the proposers being responsible for subscriptions and for ensuring the prescribed Application Form is completed.
- 10.3 **ELECTION OF LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS** shall be by overall majority vote of members present at an Annual General Meeting. Nominations shall be forwarded by the Management Committee only if not less than four-fifths of the Committee Members present vote in favour. All nominations for Life Vice-President, including details of the work of the nominee, together with the names of proposer and seconder shall be submitted to the Association General Secretary in writing by 1st January for review at the February Management Committee Meeting.
- 10.4 **ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS** shall be by overall majority vote of members present at an Annual General Meeting. All nominations for Life Members, including details of the work of the nominee, together with the names of proposer and seconder shall be submitted to the Association General Secretary in writing by 1st December and all nominations shall be circulated to all District Secretaries by 14th December.
- 11 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**
- 11.1 The **MASTER** shall promote the interests of the Association, control all ringing activities at General Meetings or gatherings of the Association (other than District meetings or functions), chair General, Executive, Charity and Committee Meetings and deal with such other matters as may be provided for in these rules or as may be directed by the Management Committee.
- 11.2 The **GENERAL SECRETARY** shall record the Minutes of General and Management Committee meetings, issue notices of all General Meetings of the Association and of the Management Committee, and carry out such other duties as may be directed by the Management Committee, the Charity Trustees and the Association Executive.
- 11.3 The **TREASURER** shall give and receive vouchers for monies passed, maintain an up to date Membership List, keep proper books of account, ensure that proper financial records and procedures are maintained, prepare a balance sheet as at 31st December each year and an income and expenditure account for that year, or other such financial statement as prescribed by law, all of which shall be examined by the two Independent Examiners or professionally audited if required. The income and expenditure account and the balance sheet shall be approved by the Charity Trustees prior to being presented to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 11.4 The **PROPERTY TRUSTEES** ("holding trustees") shall be vested with the title to all investments held by or on behalf of the Association and shall be responsible for the safe keeping of books and records and other property of the Association and shall maintain an accurate list of the property of the Association. The Master, General Secretary and Treasurer shall be Ex-Officio Property Trustees of the Association. All monies received by the Association shall be paid into an account in the name of the Association at a bank or building society appointed by the Management Committee; any two of the six nominated Property Trustees shall have the power to sign cheques. All money in the Association's funds not required for normal working purposes shall be invested or deposited by the Treasurer as may be directed by the Management Committee.
- 11.5 The **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER** shall be responsible for co-ordinating Association publicity including providing press liaison, a point of contact for public enquiries and a source of material for use by the Association Members for displays, exhibitions, etc.
- 11.6 The **TECHNICAL ADVISER** shall advise the Management Committee and Association on all matters relating to towers, bells and belfries and shall chair the Grants Sub-Committee. The Technical Adviser shall provide or solicit high quality and unbiased advice regarding all technical aspects of bells, bell fittings and bell hanging, etc., as requested. This shall include advice and training for those considering DIY maintenance, etc., to any parish within the Association's boundaries and to undertake detailed inspections as requested providing a full written report including any recommendations.
- 11.7 The **EDUCATION OFFICER** shall provide advice and guidance on the recruitment and training of new ringers and coordinate training events at Association and District level as required.
- 11.8 The **DISTRICT MASTER** shall promote the interests of the District, control all ringing activities at District Meetings, chair District Committee Meetings and deal with such other District matters as may be provided for in these rules or as may be directed by the Management Committee.
- 11.9 The **DEPUTY DISTRICT MASTER** shall deputise for the District Master as mutually agreed.
- 11.10 The **DISTRICT SECRETARIES** shall arrange and publicise District Meetings and other events, record the Minutes, and carry out decisions thereof.
- 11.11 **DISTRICT TREASURERS** shall be responsible to the Association Treasurer for collecting membership subscriptions, donations and other monies, maintaining an up-to-date District Membership List (including addresses) and making payments within their Districts, giving and receiving vouchers for monies passed, making prompt bankings and ensuring banking summaries are sent to the Treasurer, submitting accounts to the Treasurer not later than the 31st December. A statement of district accounts shall be prepared for presentation to their Annual District Meeting.
- 12** The **ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE** shall comprise the Association Master, Secretary and Treasurer, and the six District Masters. All actions and meetings shall be minuted; and a report on proceedings of all actions

and meetings shall be circulated to the Association Management Committee within 14 days of each meeting. The Role of the Association Executive is to meet (including communication by telephone and email) only if required, at short notice, to consider urgent items that need to be dealt with immediately and that are beyond the remit of individual officers. The decisions made must be unanimous (or by majority if the matter concerns one of the Executive). In the event that a decision is not reached, a Management Committee meeting shall be convened. The Executive may make emergency temporary Officer appointments in extreme cases if urgently required.

The quorum for the Association Executive shall be seven, including the three principal officers.

- 13 The CHARITY TRUSTEES** (the Trustees) shall comprise the Association Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Property Trustees, Technical Adviser, Public Relations Officer and Education Officer and two officers from each District elected under Rule 16.
- 13.1 The Trustees shall be normally advised by and act through the Management Committee. They shall meet as often as required to discharge their responsibilities under the Charities Act and all meetings shall be minuted; they shall report on proceedings of all meetings to the Association Management Committee. The quorum for Trustees meetings shall be 12 including at least two of the principal officers, and one Property Trustee.
- 13.2 The Trustees shall ensure that the Management Committee complies with its obligations under all current legislation, including but not limited to the current Charities Act from time to time in force, with regard to:
- (a) the keeping of accounting records for the Association;
 - (b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Association;
 - (c) the preparation of an Annual Report and its transmission to the Charity Commission;
 - (d) the preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Charity Commission.
- 13.3 Accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commission.
- 13.4 All Trustees shall be at least 18 years of age and shall not be disqualified for acting as a Trustee by virtue of the section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision). Prospective Trustees of the Association shall sign a declaration that they are not disqualified from becoming Trustees prior to taking up office or attending a Trustees' or Management Committee meeting.
- 14 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
- 14.1 **A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** shall manage the affairs of the Association and shall comprise the Charity Trustees, Life Vice-Presidents, Central Council Representatives and Officers appointed by the Management Committee including conveners of the Sub-Committees; 20 members shall form a quorum.
- 14.2 The Management Committee shall have full powers on matters not provided for in these rules. All decisions of the Management Committee shall be carried only by overall majority of members present, except as provided for in Rules 10.3 and 20.3.
- 14.3 The Management Committee shall determine subscriptions and peal fees and the proportion of subscriptions transferred to Bell Restoration.
- 14.4 The Management Committee may appoint a Child Protection Officer, Peals Secretary, Report Editor, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Chaplain, Ringing Course Administrator and any other officers as it may decide and may also appoint Sub-Committees as required. All such appointments shall be confirmed annually and reported to the Annual General Meeting.
- 14.5 All acts and proceedings of any Sub-Committee shall be fully reported to the Management Committee at each meeting.
- 14.6 The Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt such persons as it considers necessary to assist its deliberations. The number of co-opted persons at any one Management Committee meeting shall not exceed three. All co-options shall be reviewed annually and only renewed if deemed necessary. No aspect of control of the Association may be delegated to any person or persons not duly elected or appointed as members of the Management Committee.
- 14.7 The Management Committee shall meet on at least two occasions during the year to discuss matters concerning the Association: not later than the last day of February to prepare the Agenda and other arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and not later than the last day of October to review the Association's financial affairs to date and for the coming year, and also to consider whether the accounts for the current year are likely to be required by law to be audited and if necessary to appoint Auditors in place of the elected Independent Examiners if they are not qualified for such appointment.
- 14.8 Should no Auditors be appointed and subsequently it is found necessary so to do then the Auditors shall be appointed by the Property Trustees
- 14.9 The Management Committee and its Sub-Committees shall have the power to raise funds by any lawful means other than permanent trading.
- 14.10 A permanent Grants Sub-Committee shall normally be appointed to consider applications for financial assistance for bell maintenance and restoration in accordance with Rule 14.11, meeting at least 30 days before each Management Committee meeting and making recommendations for consideration at the next Committee meeting. This sub-committee shall comprise the Technical Adviser as Convener, one representative from each District, and the Treasurer, with the other two principal officers as ex-officio members. The Management Committee shall determine guidelines for the Sub-committee and publish

details of the Grant application process.

- 14.11 The Management Committee shall have the power, after considering a recommendation from the Grants Sub-Committee, to approve financial assistance for maintenance and improvement of a bell installation, which shall be deemed to include the following:
- (a) Taking out an existing ring of bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting bells and erecting the same.
 - (b) Taking out, overhauling and reclapping existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting or overhauling and re-erecting.
 - (c) Taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, recasting or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting.
 - (d) Augmentation and bringing existing bells, frames and fittings into an adequate state of repair.
 - (e) All other major repairs to bells, frames, fittings and towers.
 - (f) The provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of same in Churches which previously had none.
 - (g) The provision of sound regulation by means of adjustable equipment designed to facilitate ringing.

15 GENERAL MEETINGS

- 15.1 **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** shall normally be held in Chelmsford on the May Day Bank Holiday and arrangements made for a special service.
The following business shall be transacted: confirmation of Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (and any Extraordinary Meeting held since the previous AGM); adoption of reports and accounts; consideration of motions; matters recommended by the Management Committee; election of Officers whose nominations shall have been received by the General Secretary before 1st February: Master, General Secretary, Treasurer, three Property Trustees, Technical Adviser, Education Officer, Public Relations Officer and Central Council representatives as defined by the Council's rules; election of two Independent Examiners; election of Life Vice-Presidents and Life Members.
Notices of motion sponsored by at least two members must have been received by the General Secretary before 1st February. The closing date for nominations and notices of motion shall be published in accordance with Rule 24 in December of each year.
Notice giving full details of the Agenda and other arrangements shall be delivered, in accordance with Rule 24, not later than 14 days prior to the Meeting;
- 15.2 **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS** may be called by the General Secretary, either by request of the Management Committee or by written request, detailing the business or motion to be discussed, signed by no fewer than fifty members. The meeting shall be convened within two months of receiving a properly constituted written request or Committee instruction.
One month's notice of any such meeting shall be sent in accordance with Rule 24 stating the purpose for which it is called.
No other business shall be transacted thereat.
- 15.3 50 Members shall form a quorum at any General Meeting.

16 DISTRICT MEETINGS

- 16.1 Each District shall hold at least three meetings yearly.
- 16.2 The first of the three meetings shall be the Annual District Meeting at which shall be elected four Officers. These shall be District Master, Deputy District Master, District Secretary and District Treasurer. Two of these shall represent the district on the Management Committee and shall be Charity Trustees – these shall be the District Master and District Secretary unless the District determines otherwise at its ADM. The General Secretary shall be notified, in writing, of these District elections immediately.
- 16.3 The quorum for District Meetings shall be 10 members of that District plus at least two elected District Officers.

- 17 **THE EXPENSES** paid by the Treasurer from the Association Funds may be: those of the Annual General Meeting; the Essex Ringing Course; cost of printing and distribution of the Annual Reports, purchase of stock; travelling and other expenses of Officers; postage, stationery and incidental expenditure including Audit fees approved by the Executive Committee; Central Council affiliation fees, and, if authorised by the Executive Committee, reasonable expenses of Representatives attending the Council; instructors' expenses as certified by District Officers; the cost of advertisements in *The Ringing World* and any other expenditure determined by the Executive Committee year by year.

No action involving expenditure in the name or on behalf of the Association shall be taken and no undertakings which would commit the Association to expenditure or other liability shall be made without the prior authority of a resolution of the Management Committee.

- 18 An **ANNUAL REPORT** for the year ended 31st December shall be printed and shall contain: Office for Belfry Use; a list of Officers and Conveners of Sub-Committees; Charity Trustees Report; Officers' reports for the year's work including Statement of Accounts signed by the Treasurer and the Independent Examiners/Auditors; a classified list of members, excluding those in Rule 8.2(d) elected prior to the current year; peals and quarter peals rung and other matters determined by the Management Committee. The Rules, list of Association Property as certified by the Property Trustees, Standing Orders and Striking Competition Rules shall each be printed in the Annual Report at least every five years.

- 19 **PEALS RUNG** by members which conform to the current regulations of the Central Council may be credited

to the Association. Details of such peals shall be forwarded by the Conductor together with the peal booking fee charged at the time to the Peals Secretary. Peal Booking Fees for peals rung up to 30th November each year shall be forwarded by 14th December. Peals rung in December shall be notified to the Peals Secretary by 1st January and the Peal Booking Fees forwarded by 7th January.

20. REMOVAL or SUSPENSION of OFFICE or MEMBERSHIP

- 20.1 If in the unanimous opinion of the Association Executive any Officer is unfit to hold office or fails to carry out their duties to its satisfaction, it shall have the power to suspend the Officer immediately, advising the reasons for suspension, and confirming in writing within seven days.
- 20.2 If in the unanimous opinion of the Association Executive a member has committed acts which have or are likely to damage the reputation of the Association, then their membership may be suspended with immediate effect, advising the reasons for suspension, and confirming in writing within seven days.
- 20.3 All suspensions shall be reviewed and confirmed or rejected at the next Management Committee meeting, whose decision shall be final. The Association Executive shall present the facts and circumstances of the suspension. Members and Officers who are suspended shall be given the opportunity to make representation to the Management Committee either in person or through an intermediary prior to the Committee making its determination. Membership or Office shall be terminated or reinstated if not less than four fifths of the Committee Members present vote in favour. Life Vice-Presidents whose Office is suspended may retain their life membership but may not take part in Management Committee meetings. Terminated members shall forfeit any payment made to the Association.
- 20.4 Terminated members may not seek re-election until at least five years after termination, or in the case of a custodial sentence, five years after release, and then not until a formal application supported by at least two members has been considered by the Management Committee and approved by not less than four fifths of the Committee Members present. Those terminated members whose application to rejoin has been approved must present themselves at a District Meeting for re-election and may not be re-elected by Belfry Election.

21 STANDING ORDERS

- 21.1 All Association and District business meetings shall use Standing Orders.
- 21.2 In the event of urgency the Chairman may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders. A member proposing this motion must clearly state the urgency and the Standing Order numbers involved. The length of time of any suspension shall be subject to the discretion of the meeting.

22 RULE CHANGES

- 22.1 No alteration, addition or deletion of these rules shall be made except by a motion considered at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially called for the purpose.
- 22.2 No alteration, addition or deletion of these rules shall be made so as to cause the Association at any time to cease to be a Charity in Law. No alteration, addition or deletion of these rules shall be made unless approved by a two thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote. No alteration, addition or deletion of these rules shall be made so as to cause the Association or its Officers to act or potentially act illegally. If at any time the Association Officers are advised that a rule is illegal, then the Executive shall meet to review the matter, seeking such legal advice as deemed necessary. If the advice is upheld it shall issue a notice suspending the application of that rule with immediate effect and convene an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with Rule 15.2 to formally remove the rule or pass a legal alternative.

23 DISSOLUTION

- 23.1 If the members resolve to dissolve the Association (through a Motion at a General Meeting) the Trustees will remain in office and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Association in accordance with this clause.
- 23.2 The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the Association and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the Association.
- 23.3 The Trustees must apply any remaining property or money:
- (a) directly for the Objects of the Association (defined in rule 2);
 - (b) by transfer to any Charity or charities for purposes the same as or similar to the Association;
 - (c) in such other manner as the Charity Commission for England and Wales ("the Commission") may approve in writing in advance.
- 23.4 The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Association specifying the manner in which the Trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the Association and the Trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraph 23.3 above.
- 23.5 In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Association be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association (except to a member that is itself a Charity).
- 23.6 The Trustees must notify the Commission promptly that the Association has been dissolved. If the Trustees are obliged to send the Association's accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Commission the Association's final accounts.

- 24 NOTICES** shall be given by the following means: advertisement in The Ringing World, publication on the Association Website, distribution through the Association Email list. In addition Notices of Agenda for the Annual and Extraordinary General meetings shall be sent by mail to each Tower Correspondent (delivery of the Annual Report shall be deemed sufficient notice of the AGM).