

EA CR

NEWSLETTER

No. 10

August, 1991

Tower:

I hope members have had good holidays and are rested and ready for the months ahead. In this NEWSLETTER there is information on the one-day training course, an important exhibition, the dinner, a new group accident policy and a Working Group update. As you will know, David Childs will be standing down as Treasurer and he has written an article on what he does for anyone interested in standing for this post. By the way, don't forget to order your Christmas cards from Webb Ivory and help raise money for bell restoration. Catalogues are available from district secretaries or Jane Bardwell. AFC

P. R.

Simon Poyser, PRO, is pleased to report that he has obtained some display boards from Marconi. Thanks to Denis Withams of Little Waltham for the information leading to their acquisition.

The boards should be put to good use at the Exhibition Simon is organising in the lobby of Chelmsford Central Library over the period 14th December - 4th January. A large number of people pass round this area daily so it will be a significant exhibition. Hopefully members will be able to support Simon on occasions when manning is needed.

There is still a need for exhibition material in the form of photos of restoration projects or any other catchy P.R. items. Please contact Simon (tel: 0277 840787) if you have or know of anything suitable which could either be loaned from time to time or copied.

Education

The Association will be holding another one-day training course on Saturday 28th September based at Church House, Braintree. It is intended to offer the following courses:

Plain Hunt and Doubles
Plain Bob Minor
Introduction to Stedman
Introduction to 10 bell ringing

The day will start at 10.00 at Church House and the cost will be £1.50 for members and £2 for non-members. After tea it is hoped to have a discussion on tower management. If you wish to apply for a place or would like further details please contact Adrian Semken (0376 561183) as soon as possible.

If you would like to help by ringing plain hunt/bob doubles or whatever as many times as you can during the day, please also contact Adrian. Helpers are probably the most important people on this type of course - it doesn't matter how good the tutor is or how keen the student, without a solid band round him/her the learner will not progress. Please help if you can.

Next year it is intended to base this course in Brentwood.

The Education Capital Fund provided a grant for Jo Percy to attend the Central Council tower management course in July.

DINNER

We are pleased to report that the ticket price for this year's dinner will remain at £18 but remember there is a maximum of 120 so it will be very strictly **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED** and cash with order please.

The dinner will be in the new banqueting suite at The Rivenhall Resort Hotel, Rivenhall End, Witham on the A12. If coming from Chelmsford you need to turn left opposite the hotel and go back under the A12 to reach the hotel. The evening will start at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. and following the dinner and speeches by guest speakers Ron Russ and the Provost of Chelmsford Cathedral, dancing will be to a disco until 1.00 a.m.

During the evening there will be raffle and if there is any regular dinner-goer who is unable to attend this year, perhaps he/she would like to donate a raffle prize instead! Others of course are welcome to donate prizes too!

Insurance

As you know the Association pays two insurance policies for its members. These have now been amended and details are given below.

Public Liability

This policy covers workers working on bells and any damage which may occur to floors, towers, people etc. but not the actual bell (I believe the brokers are trying to amend this). The policy includes member to member liability and covers damage to property being worked on. The indemnity has now been increased from £500,000 to £1,000,000 for every claim but the premium paid has remained at £150 per annum.

Group accident policy

This covers individual members whilst undertaking work in respect of inspection, maintenance, restoration and any other work on church bells. This policy has also now been extended to cover the actual ringing of bells and direct travel to and from any of the above. Benefits are:

£10,000 for death, loss of sight or limbs and permanent total disablement.

Up to £100 per week for temporary total disablement (up to 104 weeks and not exceeding any member's weekly income).

The members are covered anywhere in the United Kingdom.

N.B. Unemployed members do not receive temporary disablement payments. Under 16 year olds are covered for £1,000 on death.

Over 65 year olds are not covered for temporary or permanent total disablement.

Non-resident members are not covered by this policy.

The cost of this policy has increased from a flat rate premium of £100 to a rate of £0.50 per member, which means that we will pay approx. £470 this year. It now becomes very important that you do not let your membership lapse as in the event of a claim the Association Officers will decide if you are a valid member. It is required that accurate membership figures are kept by District Officers as regular reviews of payments due (or overpaid) will be made.

This shows one of the significant benefits of being an Association member.

DAC

A.G.M.

The A.G.M.s seem to get shorter every year! This year of course there were no motions or nominations for life membership and the accounts and report were speedily adopted. Don Cobb reported on the activities of the sub-committee which is looking at the findings of the 1988 C.C. Survey and how the Association can act on these. Unfortunately, I personally felt, this provoked next to no discussion but I hope it will set people thinking and talking amongst themselves and district officers. There is a further article in this Newsletter and any feedback to sub-committee members would be most welcome.

The lunch following the AGM held in the Chapter House was not very well attended. Is it something we should continue to provide? Is it too expensive (£4 for soup, salad, dessert and coffee)? What are the alternatives? Any suggestions or comments can be made to district officers or myself.

Afternoon ringing was in the Northern District with a welcome cup of tea at Castle Hedingham and a delicious tea at Wethersfield. Thanks to all who helped in any way with the organisation of the day.

..... Following the AGM, the silver salver was sold to a member of the Association for £400 - a very welcome contribution to the Education Capital Fund.

Peals

At the February Committee Meeting the new Peal Secretary was asked to look into membership status of those ringing peals for the Association. The list of Non-Resident members, last published in the Annual Report in 1965 has been brought up-to-date using the Reports and other sources, but it is believed that a number of such members have never been correctly recorded. If any one wants a copy of the new list please contact me. It has been suggested that some Non-Resident members who have moved (back) into Essex have not been paying subscriptions but have continued to ring in Association peals - Rule 6 (iii) makes it clear that such people only qualify as members on payment of current subscriptions. I shall report to the October Committee meeting with my findings and depending on the Committee's decision may write to conductors of any peals concerned.

CFC

The Treasurer's Job

Most people are aware by now that I am not continuing as Treasurer next year, therefore we will need to elect a new person. "What does the job involve?" is a question many people will ask, so below I have tried to give a brief description of how I have tackled the job.

"The Treasurer, along with the other Trustees, is responsible for the Association's assets with specific responsibility for the money. The Association has a high interest account and a current account at the Midland and the balance in these has to be monitored to ensure that we get as much interest as possible without going overdrawn. The money paid into these accounts is recorded so that at the year end it can be accurately apportioned in the accounts. As a registered Charity we are obliged to maintain accurate records and report them to the Charity Commissioners yearly (I send an annual report). The monitoring of the bank accounts and the paying of the Association's bills probably takes up about one evening a month in total.

There are two other areas of the treasurership which need to be looked at. The first of these is the production of the annual accounts and a statement of affairs for the October Committee meeting. I produce these with the aid of the district secretaries who pay the majority of the money into the bank accounts. The year end accounts are the most complex as they involve transfers between accounts and full details of all monies involved. These then have to be audited and any questions answered. The October Committee has to decide whether to increase subscriptions and to assist its deliberations a set of accounts is produced. These accounts also try to give a rough estimate of what the year end position will be. The production of the accounts can be time consuming and can take several evenings to complete.

The second area is the covenants. As you know we have been encouraging people to covenant their subscriptions. For members this is very easy. Each year I have to ascertain when the covenantors paid their subscriptions and then complete a return to the Inland Revenue in order to receive the tax back. Although this is a relatively simple task it can be time consuming."

I have tried to describe the basics of what the Treasurer has to do. I have found that being Treasurer has been a great way of meeting many ringing friends all over the county and I have been made welcome wherever I have been.

If you, or someone you know is interested in being the next Treasurer, I would be delighted to talk further and show the records to you at any time.

David Childs

Sub-Committee Report

Although a verbal report from the Sunday Service Ringing Working Group was given at the AGM in May, there was no useful feedback. Bank Holidays are not the best time to discuss the future of ringing and the Cathedral is not a good place to hold a debate (many cannot hear what is being said). We need another forum to continue the discussion.

Public Relations

The broader role of public relations is something which has to be worked at if those who ring wish to persuade those who do not that it is something worth doing. The Working Group recently met with our PR Officer, Simon Poyser and plan to continue this discussion to see where he can be helped in what he is doing for the Association.

Lost Members

At our AGM I mentioned the percentage of ringers whose membership lapses each year. Has anyone had a good look at the 1989 and 1990 reports and asked who has left the Association and why?

Central Council

Those who have followed the recent debate in *The Ringing World* on Central Council membership will note that it has moved from the tedious argument about territorial and non-territorial societies to a serious discussion on the future of ringing and to the part which the Central Council is playing. I commend John Barnes' letter in the August 16th issue, particularly the paragraph headed 'What of the future needs of the Council?'. It would appear that the Essex Association and the Central Council are working in the same direction. We obviously need to make full use of the various initiatives being made by the Central Council if we are to persuade the people of Essex to take up ringing in ever increasing numbers.

Don Cobb

Report Amendments

Fryerning (SE) now practice on a Monday night.
Little Baddow (SE) - enquiries should be addressed to Mrs. Wendy Godden, 15 Jarvis Field, Little Baddow from September.
Fyfield (NW) - new correspondent is Mrs N. Turnpenny, 127B Hatch Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood (Tel: 0277 374546).

Around the Districts

The South-East District quarter peal week was very successful with 29 quarters being scored in 26 of the district's 30 towers (there was a peal at Tollesbury, a lost quarter at Broomfield and High Easter and Great Leighs are currently unringable). The week culminated in a barbecue in Pat Saltmarsh's garden - luckily the rain held off until everyone had eaten although the evening finished somewhat earlier than usual.

Simultaneous peals of Maldon S. Major at All Saints and 7 S. Minor at St. Mary's in Maldon were rung on 9th August to mark the millenium of the Battle of Maldon.

A very enjoyable Northern District dinner was held at The Green Men, Gosfield. The barbecue, held at Pat and Paul Clarry's house, raised £75 for bell restoration. A quarter peal was rung at Finchingfield on 8th August to celebrate the release of John McCarthy from captivity.

Two training days have been held in the North-East District - a Stedman day in May and Plain Bob in June. During the quarter peal week in June a total of 16 quarters were rung. Following the "Help Squad" visit to St Buryan with Mrs. Major (the P.M.'s wife) recently shown on T.V., a youngster turned up at Wormingford wanting to learn how to ring.

In the South-West District Hornchurch celebrates 600 years of association with New College, Oxford and a peal to mark this was rung on 22nd June.

Striking Competitions

In May the Association entered a band in the Ridgman Trophy 10-bell competition held at Bishop's Stortford. Maurice Downs organised several practice quarter peals prior to the event and we were very pleased to come second. Hertford won.

The finals of the six-bell competition were held at Sandon judged by Nigel Humphries and Kevin Lucas and the eight-bell at Little Baddow judged by Bernard Fairhead and Nigel Humphries. The results were as follows:

Six-bell:

1 - Dagenham (46 faults); 2 - St. Leonard's, Colchester (49%); 3 - Little Waltham (50); Downham (50%); Chelmsford (52%); Prittlewell (57%); Thorington (70); Witham (100) and Bocking (164).

Eight-bell

1 - South-East District (36 faults); 2 - South-West (44); 3 - North-East (53); 4 - Southern (66).

Association Registers

We regret to report the deaths of the following members:
Felix Erith (Life Member - Ardleigh)
Harold Nield (Earls Colne)

Congratulations to:

Phil and Karen Saunders (Springfield) on the birth of their second son, Jonathan Mark
Neil and Pam Avis (Colchester) on the birth of their son,
Paul and Maria Cansdale (Prittlewell) on their marriage.
Phil and Trish Stephens (Writtle) on their 25th and Ron Suckling and his wife (Bocking) on their 50th wedding anniversaries.

Best wishes to Chris and Edna Cooper of Little Baddow who are moving to Old Sodbury at the end of August.

Central Council

Two important items are to be considered by the Central Council next year. One is changes in representation by ringing bodies on the Central Council and the proposal for this appeared in *The Ringing World* dated 12 July. The second item is a new Code of Practice for the Conservation of Historic Bells and Bellframes.

If anyone is interested in reading this latter document, a copy can be borrowed from the C.C. reps or myself. It is fairly lengthy so it is not possible to provide copies for all interested people.

A meeting is to be convened between the C.C. reps and Executive Officers to discuss these proposals prior to the Committee Meeting and comments can be given to them or direct to the Secretary of the Central Council, Mr. C.A. Written by the end of September.

Calendar Update

The following are additions to the calendar printed at the back of the Annual Report. Check details in *The Ringing World*.

Oct 19	Meeting - Great Bromley	NE
Dec 14	Carol Service - Wormingford	NE
Jan 11	ADM - Great Holland	NE

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for December 1991. Any contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 8th November 1991.