

## **R&T Notes 22/1/2023**

Present; Katharine Salter, Philip Gorrod, Sue Child, Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase, Maureen Gardiner

Apologies; Pauline Brown, Cath Colman

### **NE Update**

Had a really good district practice at Chediston with a couple of really good learners.

Sue, Kate Gill and Richard Rapior did the ART course at Redgrave facilitated by Lesley Boyle, they learnt to teach handling with the bell down.

Lesley Boyle is the ART co-ordinator for teaching hubs.

Sue has set up sessions at Reydon on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings to bring people together to support ringing teachers. The aim is to share knowledge. Sue felt that some of the new activities taught on the ART course could be useful.

Sue will produce a flowchart of the possible ways that people can be taught to ring.

There is a desire for more ART courses. The following discussion highlighted to the difficulties in securing mentors for those attending ART and the majority of attendees do not do the follow up work to get accredited. There are just 2 accredited ART tutors in the NE.

The other issue is ensuring that those who attend ART have pupils to teach on their return so they can practice their skills.

**Action Point: Katharine to set up a conversation with Lesley Boyle and David Sparling about the difficulties we are facing securing mentors.**

### **SE Update**

The full programme of district events for 23 has been planned out. They had a very successful outing in November, 10 new members were elected on the outing and a further 2 at the ADM. The first practice of 23 at Henley saw 52 people attend.

Jenny wondered if it might be useful to do 3 consecutive Saturdays focussing on either Plain Bob Major or Grandsire Triples.

Jenny was unsure how Janet Looser was coping on the peninsular where they have 6 young learners, the Shotley peninsular group have informally paired up with the Felixstowe towers and are supporting each other.

Jenny has extended her proactive to 2 hrs to cope with teaching but the basic ringing tuition is now getting in the way of method ringing practice and development.

Mark is teaching a new band at Tuddenham who are being supported by Henley. He also noted that outside of Ipswich a lot of people are reluctant to visit other practices and that this may be hampering their learning.

### **NW Update**

They are facing a shortage of people who can teach beyond basic bell handling and need M2 courses.

Their first practice of the new year at the Norman Tower was well attended, it was run by Julian Colman at his request, it worked well and people got to try things that they hadn't rung before.

Maureen talked about various bands including Walsham le Willows where the bells are rung but the ringers don't ring anywhere else and Lakenheath which is booming.

There is strong demand for 8 bell practices, there are usually 14-15 people at the Buxhall practice around half of them are visitors.

We debated if there was value in running Guild 8 bell practices, possibly on the 3rd Saturday in the month. Jenny suggested using a tower in the SE district first.

**Action Point: Katharine to arrange these from April onwards a bi monthly Guild 8 bell practice somewhere vaguely central but rotating around the districts.**

Jenny noted that Jonathan Williamson had run a Stedman course on the Sunday after the striking competition.

### **Central Council Weekend 1-3/9/23**

Ringling Development sessions will be run on 1st and 3rd September, we had hoped to pitch them based on the outcome of the training audit, but this is still not complete enough.

**Action Point: Mark to set up a sheet where R&T members can put their thoughts on**

### **Training Audit**

We have found that ringing/helping each other out in clusters is more common than we realised with the possible exception of the NE district.

The exercise itself has enabled us to re-connect with outlying towers, as a result we have identified a need for ringing and maintenance support at Exning and Newmarket (Chris Davies is going to do a bell maintenance session for them).

Mark wondered how many non-members were looking for help.

We noted that we need to run an M2 ART course and that experience shows that it benefits the attendees own ringing as well as enabling them to teach beyond basic handling.

The Reydon Saturday morning sessions are both teaching people to ring and teaching people to teach ringing.

We also need further initial ART courses.

**Action Point: Maureen to see if ART courses can be organised at Redgrave, 1 in June and 1 in October**