

The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Saturday 30th April 2011 at 6.15pm Henley Community Centre

1. **The Chairman** Philip Gorrod (PJG) opened the meeting by giving a welcome to the eighty-five members present. He thanked the local ringers in the South East District for the organisation of the day and Chris Farley for taking the service, Jane Harper and her team for the teas and Jonathan Stevens for organising the debate- "Bell frames: Repair or Replace?" with Mark Regan and Shawn Kholucy in Henley Community Centre before the meeting. Apologies were received from fifty five members.
2. The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of Stephen Young from Hopton, Julia Barry from Long Melford, Simon Cottrell from Parham, Albert Driver from Redgrave, Dennis Kiddy from Cowlinge, John Mardon from Sproughton, Robert Mares from Edwardstone, Wendy Mason from West Stow, Susan Munford from Pakenham and Geoffrey Pulford from Ottley, Malcolm Oliver from Nayland, Keith Rands of Old Newton, David Tallis from Yoxford and Geoffrey Timms from Reydon. There were also a number of NRL Members who had also passed away including recently Rod Pipe.

3. Election of New Members

The following were elected as members of the Guild

Name	Tower	Proposed	Seconded
Nathan Coleman	Stowmarket	Winston Girling	Mandy Shedden
David Ruffles	Bardwell	Ruth Suggett	Mandy Shedden
Mark Palmer	Mildenhall	Ruth Suggett	Louis Suggett
Abby Teague	Stoke Ash	Winston Girling	Carol Girling
Bill Lloyd	Pettistree	Mary Garner	Mike Whitby
Ian Wright	Rendham	Suzanne Stevens	Jonathan Stevens

4 Minutes of the 2010 AGM

These minutes had been published in the Annual Report. Their acceptance was proposed by John Girt and seconded by Mary Garner and agreed by the meeting.

5 Officers Reports

Ringling Master: Richard Munnings (RJM) presented the Master's report as printed in the Annual Report. Acceptance proposed by Mary Dunbavin and seconded by Maurice Rose. It was accepted by the meeting.

Secretary: Mandy Shedden (MJS) Mary Garner proposed and Chris Garner seconded acceptance of the Secretary's report as printed. The meeting accepted the report.

Treasurer's Report: Gordon Slack (GES) added that since he had presented the accounts the examiners had approved them. John Girt queried if insurance cover was in place for the replacement value of assets in particular the Ringling Masters badge of office and the mini ring. GES replied that he felt sure that they were covered but would double check the insurance policy schedule to be certain. There being no other questions, Peter Harper proposed and Ruth Suggett seconded that the report be accepted by the meeting. The members agreed.

Technical Advisor/Belfry Advisory Committee: Jonathan Stevens (JJS) presented his report as printed, and informed the meeting that two more members of the BAC had joined, Carol Girling and Martin Croucher. He urged the members to use him and the committee members for free help and advice regarding maintenance of the bells in their towers. Winston Girling proposed acceptance and Derek Rose seconded this. The meeting accepted the report.

Public Relations Officer: Bruce Wakefield presented his report as written in the Guild Report and added that Richard Munnings had been very active and continues to give good PR for the Guild. Mary Garner proposed and Ruth Suggett seconded the acceptance of his report. The meeting agreed.

Report Editor: Ruth Suggett thanked everyone involved in the collation of the Report and ensuring that the material was submitted in good time for printing. PJG thanked her for her good work as the editor.

Magazine Editor: Alan Stanley reported that he was only one member of a team of three that works hard to produce three or four copies per year. The average is one edition every three months and he had received a lot of positive feedback about it. He offered his thanks to all the contributors and the team of Deanery Reps who are responsible for the delivery of the magazine to the whole county.

Librarian: In the absence of Abby Antrobus, the meeting was referred to her written report. Ann Pilgrim asked if the Library was accessible at the moment and she was told that during the transition and cataloguing period, Abby would be pleased to access any material that she needed. The report was proposed for agreement by **Robert Scase** and Mary Garner seconded it. The meeting accepted the report.

Peal Secretary: Christine Knights reported an error in the name of a new NRLM. Christopher CP Woodhouse should read Christopher CP Woodcock. Other than this, she offered her thanks to all who have helped collate the peal statistics and asked that her report should be accepted as written. David Potts proposed and Derek Rose seconded this and the meeting agreed.

Handbell/Mini Ring Trustee: Brian Whiting reported that one of the four sets of handbells owned by the Guild was on loan and this year donations totalling £73 had been received for the handbells. The new mini ring had been used at the Young Ringers training day in October 2010 and was in use here at the AGM. There were 10-12 bookings in place for the mini ring for the next two years and it was going to be used at the Suffolk Show this year. Trevor Hughes asked if preference would be given to Suffolk Guild members if the mini ring was asked for in two places at once. PJG replied that this would be difficult to implement if outside organisations were relying on the booking for an event and had asked for it in plenty of time. This is a matter that will be discussed at the GMC meeting. Mike Pilgrim reported that as a result of the presence of the mini ring at Henham he was now teaching two new recruits to ring.

Webmasters Report: Chris Garner had nothing to add to his printed report but Veronica Downing praised his work in producing one of the best Guild/Association websites available. The meeting applauded her complement. David Steed proposed and Ralph Earey seconded the adoption of the report. The meeting agreed.

6 **Trustees Report:** PJG asked for the report to be accepted as printed. Chris Garner proposed and John Girt seconded this. The meeting agreed.

7 **Central Council Report:** Two reports from the CC Meeting had been posted on the website and none of the representatives who had attended were present. PJG asked if there were any questions but there were none.

8 **Subscriptions and Peal Fees for 2012**

The GMC had proposed that there should be NO CHANGES and that the 2012 subscriptions should be:

Ringling Member	£15.00	Associate Member	£7.00
Ringling Member 65-74	£10.00	Non Resident Life Member	£7.00
Members 75 and over	Free		
Ringling Member in FTE	£7.00	Peal Fee	£1.00

Maurice Rose proposed and Lesley Wilson seconded that the fees should be accepted. The meeting agreed.

9 Election of Officers for 2011/2012

Richard Munnings had to stand down as Ringing Master after five years of Office and Bruce Wakefield resigned as Public Relations Officer.

The following Officers were elected unopposed by the members present.

	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
1. Chairman	Philip Gorrod	Ole Jensen	Veronica Downing
2. Ringing Master	Gerald Flatters	Ruth Suggett	David Rogers
3. Secretary	Mandy Shedden	Jacky Savage	Mary Garner
4. Treasurer	Gordon Slack	Mandy Shedden	Abby Antrobus
5. Technical Adviser	Jonathan Stevens	Suzanne Stevens	Mary Garner
6. Chairman of the BAC	Jonathan Stevens	Suzanne Stevens	Mary Garner
7. Public Relations Officer	Richard Munnings	Bruce Wakefield	Kate Eagle
8. Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Stephen Pettman	Alex Tatlow
9. Report Editor	Ruth Suggett	Lesley Wilson	David Steed
10 Webmaster	Chris Garner	Maggie Ross	Peter Harper
11 Magazine Editor	Alan Stanley	Peter Harper	Jonathan Stevens
12 Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Mandy Shedden	Richard Munnings
13 Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Alex Tatlow	Jonathan Stevens
14 Mini-Ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Abby Antrobus	Alex Tatlow

10 Election of Trustees

The trustees are currently the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and their re-election was proposed by Mary Garner and seconded by Richard Munnings. The meeting agreed.

11 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The reappointment of Larking Gowen, the current examiners, was proposed by Gordon Slack and seconded by the chairman and agreed unopposed.

12 Election of Life Honorary Members.

Trevor D Hughes

The North East District proposed Trevor D Hughes who Jason Busby introduced as a bellringing legend who had worked very hard for the Guild over a number of years. JJS continued that he had been put forward because of his outstanding service as a committee member over a period of some 40 years. He has taught several of the current members to ring and been elected to several offices within the District, finally retiring as its Chairman recently in order that he could concentrate on teaching more new recruits . Trevor was unanimously elected as a Life Honorary Member of the Guild. He thanked the Guild for electing him.

Mary S Garner

The South East District proposed Mary Garner and George Pipe spoke of her as a very worthy recipient of the honour as she had worked tirelessly in many different ways for the District and the Guild. His comments were echoed by Peter Harper who said that there in the four years that he had been in Suffolk, Mary had always been involved in working either for the District or the Guild. On her election as Life Honorary Member Mary said that she felt honoured to be in this position especially as she was a relative newcomer of only 25 years membership.

Gillian Wakefield

Gillian was also proposed by the South East District. George Pipe spoke of her outstanding service as a librarian of years. In all that time Gillian had housed the contents of the library in her home and she was always willing for members to visit and use it, and was very hospitable when they did. Nothing was ever too much trouble. Gillian was elected by the meeting and she thanked everyone for this saying she had enjoyed being the librarian and felt privileged to have been in the position.

13. **Guild Magazine**

PJG said that he felt the magazine had been a success but some concern had been expressed at the cost of production and that this may have some impact on subscription levels in the future. Some of the cost could be defrayed by advertising revenue but the editors wanted to strike a healthy balance between adverts and content. JJS stated that the editors had done a good job in producing a readable magazine which was of interest to the general public and not just the ringers themselves. David Mulrenan asked about cost in relation to the previous cost of producing the newsletter and whether there was any wastage or not.

GES advised that the cost was £285 per issue of 500 copies and that the cost did not reduce proportionately if fewer copies were printed. Some of this figure had been reduced by advertising revenue so far. It was suggested that wastage could be addressed by everyone making a conscious effort to deliver copies to other places in the community such as GP surgeries.

Shirley Girt commented that she sent out 12 copies to retired ringers who did not have access to the internet

and that it was much appreciated because of the continuity of contact.

Brian Whiting pointed out that the magazine cost approximately £1 per member to produce over the course of a year (3 copies per year).

Shirley Girt proposed and David Mulrenan seconded a motion that the magazine should be continued. The meeting agreed.

14. **Suffolk Show**

The mini ring is going to be demonstrated at the Suffolk Show this year on the 1st and 2nd of June. PJG asked for two or three more volunteers to help with the manning of it. The GMC have agreed to pay half the entrance fee. He reported that he had also received an invitation to take the Mini Ring to Henham Steam Rally again this year.

15. **Erratum in 2010 report**

On p.68 peal composition at top middle of page 5056 Spliced S Major: notes should read 5 part calling **Penultimate** course **NOT** last course. All unissued reports have been amended to the correct version.

16. **Child Protection Update**

Mary Garner reported that as yet there had been no change in the law and current guidelines previously issued should still be referred to.

17. **Guild History Update.**

George Pipe reported that he has a rough draft done and that a third of the 40 chapters had been completed. He had hoped to have been taking it to the printers by now but for personal reasons he had been unable to work on it recently.

18. **Guild Social**

This is being hosted by the NW District on July 30th. Ringing at Bury and Horringer in the afternoon together with an historical quiz/ guided tour around Bury St Edmunds. This will be followed by food and drink in Whepstead Village Hall.

19. **Matters Arising from 2010 AGM minutes not previously covered**

No matters arising.

20. **St Edmunds Clapper Competition**

The winners of the competition this year were Ofton who raised £400 for the BRF. In second place was Sweffling and third was The Folly. The clapper trophy will be retained by Ofton who were the winners last year.

21. **Date and venue for 2012 AGM.**

This will be held on April 14th at Edwardstone and Boxford. Full details will follow.

22. **Any Other Business**

i) John Girt drew attention to an article in the RW on 15th April regarding the Ringing Foundation and the intention of the CC to develop an Integrated Teacher Training Scheme to train new instructors which it was suggested all Guilds and Associations could adopt to complement any existing training for teachers that they already do. He asked that this could be taken further and PJG agreed that it would be put on the agenda for the next GMC meeting.

ii) George Pipe reported that the Ringing World had approached one subscriber in each of the Guilds and Associations to act as a spokesman for the publication, which is danger of becoming a casualty of the new digital age if subscriptions do not increase in number. In Suffolk out of over 700 members only 80 were subscribers. For less than the cost of a pint of beer per week, he urged each tower to subscribe to the Ringing World so that it could be shared amongst the ringers in the tower. It could be that as a result the number of personal subscriptions increases.

iii) RJM asked recently elected members who were present to collect their membership certificates from him.

iv) Trevor Hughes asked if Richard's blog would still be available now that he was no longer Master. Richard assured him that it would under a different guise.

v) Peter Harper asked if handbell ringing could be a regular feature during future AGM church services.

vi) Ann Pilgrim asked if a reminder of the subscription rates and when they were due be put on the What's On.

BRF Collection during the service amounted to **£135.36**