

**2021 Annual General Meeting of the
Suffolk Guild of Ringers
for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Saturday 10th April 2021
via Zoom virtual meeting**



Minutes by Neal Dodge

1) Welcome

Rowan Wilson opened the meeting as Chairman and welcomed the 92 members present. She thanked the GMC members especially Chris and Mary Garner for organising today's meeting.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Diana Pipe, Maurice Rose, Sarah & Kate Mitton.

3) Absent friends

The meeting remembered two members who had passed away since the 2020 AGM these were Lewis Woolnough of Long Melford and John Brown of Mildenhall. Rowan also noted the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday.

4) Election of new members

- a) Sue Child of Southwold, was proposed by Julia Johnson seconded by Kate Assman
- b) Clare Gebel of Stowmarket, was proposed by Jo Beever seconded by Maureen Gardiner
- c) The two candidates were elected unanimously and as both were present Rowan welcomed them to the Guild

5) Minutes of the last AGM

- a) These were included in the 2020 annual report. Julian Colman commented that he had attended the 2020 meeting so would like his name added to the list of those present, pending that change the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; this was approved unanimously.
- b) There were no matters arising.

6) Annual Report 2020

- a) There were no comments on the 2020 annual report.
- b) The officers' and trustees' reports were accepted unanimously.
- c) Mark Ogden (Report Editor) highlighted that there was an error with the tower map and the corrected version was on the website. He commented that most of the content is produced by others members from across the Guild and thanked all those that had contributed. Mark gave a special thanks to Kate Gill and Mary Garner for proof reading so diligently.

7) Central Council Report 2020

Neal Dodge ran through his report for the 2020 meeting which was available on the website and commented that the next meeting will also be held online in September. He felt that the Council had done a good job representing the interests of ringers in the negotiations with the CofE on Covid guidance. Rowan agreed and said the Church is now more aware of ringing, it's involvement in parish life, and our enthusiasm for keeping churches open in face of closure.

8) Subscriptions and Peal fees for 2022.

Rowan confirmed that there was no proposed change for the fees for 2022 and thanked all those that made their payments on time.

Stephen Cheek (Treasurer) reminded those paying by BACS transfer should include a suitable payment reference so he can easily identify who the money has come from.

9) Election of Officers

- a) Rowan thanked all those who had served as an officer during the year for their contribution and support to the smooth running of the Guild. She highlighted that we have two new officers that have been proposed with the others already in post.
- b) Firstly Tom Scase has come to the end of his term as Ringing Master, he has proposed that Katharine Salter be elected. No other nomination were received and Katharine Salter was elected as Guild Ringing Master unanimously. Rowan welcome Katharine to the Guild executive and said that she looked forward to working together.
- c) The other new nomination was for our vacant Central Council (CCCBR) Rep position, Cath Colman was nominated to fill this and was elected unanimously
- d) The meeting unanimously elected the other officers as proposed.

Officers

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rowan Wilson	Mike Cowling	Philip Gorrod
Ringling Master	Katharine Salter	Tom Scase	Rowan Wilson
Secretary	Kate Gill	Sal Jenkinson	Philip Gorrod
Treasurer	Stephen Cheek	Jonathan Williamson	Sue Williamson
Chair of the BAC	Chris Davies	Chris McArthur	Winston Girling
Technical Advisor	Alan Moulton & Jed Flatters (to hold post jointly)	Chris Davies	Mark Steggles
PRO	Neal Dodge	Deborah Blumfield	Ruth Suggett
Report Editor	Mark Ogden	Chris Garner	Mary Garner
Magazine Editor	Not required as magazine no longer exists		
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	David Salter	Katharine Salter
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Maurice Rose	Brian Whiting
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Gordon Slack	Janet Sheldrake
Mini ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Janet Sheldrake	Gordon Slack
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Richard Munnings	Kate Eagle

Central Council Reps

Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stephen Pettman	Tom Scase	Rowan Wilson
Neal Dodge	Ruth Suggett	Simon Veal
Chris Birkby	Sue Williamson	Jonathan Williamson
Cath Colman	Neal Dodge	Stephen Cheek

Trustees

Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Rowan Wilson	Brian Whiting	David Stanford
Stephen Cheek		
Kate Gill		

10) 50 years of membership awards

- a) Rowan thanked Mary Garner and Peter Harper for organising these awards which are given to members who had served 50 years with the Guild. This year there were one recipient; David Salter of Ipswich. Rowan thanked David for his service to ringing and the Guild and shared with the meeting a summary of David's ringing career provided by Katharine. The certificate prepared for David would be passed on when possible.
- b) Rowan also wished to recognise Christine Knight as a long serving Guild officer having served 17 years at Peal Secretary.

11) St Edmund's Clapper competition

- a) Stephen Cheek explained that this year the contest was District based rather than having entries by individual towers, members have responded well to the challenge and including gift aid the total raised was over £1,000.
- b) Stephen announced that the SE District has raised the most, followed by the NW all from various different initiatives. Rowan awarded the prize for the most ingenious fundraising entry to David Stanford for his virtual round Britain tour. She confirmed that the competition would be run in the same format for next year.

12) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Our current examiners are B A S Accountants at Stephen Cheek said he was very happy with their services and proposed that they be reappointed which was seconded by Rowan. The meeting unanimously approved this decision.

13) Guild events for 2021-22

Rowan explained that cancelled events would again be rolled over into next year. Therefore the AGM, if possible to be held in person would be in the SW district, the six bell striking contest in the NE district, and the eight bell striking contest and social in the NW district the venue for which has already been booked. She encouraged Districts to hold their events, when possible, at the ground floor towers as that would encourage those who may be nervous about enclosed ringing rooms to attend.

14) Updates from the GMC

Rowan explained that the GMC meetings had continued to be held virtually. One of the recent pieces of work has been a refresh of the website which has seen the menus reorganised by audience and a clear out of old material.

15) EasyFundraising & Amazon Smile

Stephen thanked all the members that had used EasyFundraising & Amazon Smile to raise money for the Guild. The scheme had contributed around £50 each to our funds at no cost to those donating as it is a cashback scheme. Full details can be found on the website.

<https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/FundraisingAndShopping.php>

Rowan brought the meeting to a close and thanked members for attending and hoped that next meeting would be in person. She encouraged people to donate to the restoration fund via internet banking in lieu of a normal collection.