



**2022 Annual General Meeting of the
Suffolk Guild of Ringers
For the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Saturday 23 April 2022. Drinkstone Village Hall
Minutes by Kate Gill**

1) Welcome, thanks and apologies

- a) Rowan Wilson, as chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 58 members present. She thanked the SW district for hosting the meeting, the Rector Ruth Farrell for taking the service, and Stephen Cheek who played the organ. She made particular mention of Astrid and Nigel Gale for organising the meeting. Members showed their appreciation. Rowan commented how good it is to see everyone in person, this being only her second AGM in real life, although her fourth as chairman.
- b) She encouraged members to use the post-it notes distributed around tables, to suggest ideas around how the Guild should celebrate its centenary in 2023, the St. Edmunds Clapper competition, and what members want from the Guild going forward.
- c) She thanked Chris and Mary Garner for all their efforts during the last year and without their help this AGM would not have been possible
- d) Rowan asked members to add any apologies into the attendance book.

2) Absent Friends

The meeting remembered the following members who have passed away since the 2021 AGM.

David Salter, Old Stoke; Hazel Judge, Pettistree; Kathy Ferrar, Mendham; Ian Boothman, Higham; Susan Harrison, St Margaret's Ipswich; Joan Tipple, Pakenham; Marion Holland, Norman Tower.

3) New Members

There were no new members proposed.

4) Minutes of the 2021 AGM (draft)

These were included in the 2021 annual report. David Steed proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true record, and this was seconded by Chris Davies. All were in favour of accepting the minutes.

5) Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6) Trustees' Report

Lesley Steed proposed and Gordon Slack seconded that the Trustees' report be accepted. The report was accepted unanimously.

7) Officer Reports

Pauline Brown proposed and Julian Colman seconded that the officer reports be accepted en bloc. The reports were accepted unanimously.

8) Annual Report – Editor’s Report

- a) Rowan read out a short report which Mark Ogden had provided, as he was not present at the meeting. In his report, Mark thanked all who had contributed to the Annual Report and those who had diligently proof read the various draft versions. He asked that Chris Garner is advised of any changes or corrections to tower directory information, so that the website can be kept up to date and Chris can maintain a master copy of the information from which the report information can be generated in future. As 2023 is the Guild centenary year, Mark is keen to do something special for the next two reports and asked that he is contacted with ideas and offers to help.
- b) Rowan asked members to show their appreciation for the enormous effort that Mark has put into the report. She asked for ideas to mark the centenary of the Guild next year.

9) Central Council Report

The report from the Central Council representatives was not read out, as it is available on the Guild website. Rowan commented that the Central Council had provided useful information during the pandemic as to when and how ringing can be safely resumed. Questions can be sent via GMC reps to be passed to the Central Council.

10) Election of officers for 2022

- a) Rowan passed the chair to Katharine Salter, for the chairman election to proceed. David Stanford has proposed Rowan Wilson as chairman, seconded by Brian Whiting. There were no other nominations for chairman. The meeting unanimously elected Rowan as chairman. She resumed the chair.
- b) The meeting unanimously elected the other officers as proposed, there being no other nominations received.
- c) Rowan said that there may be an opportunity for someone to shadow Stephen during his final year as treasurer.

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rowan Wilson	David Stanford	Brian Whiting
Ringing Master	Katharine Salter	Nigel Gale	Richard Munnings
Secretary	Kate Gill	Philip Gorrod	Sal Jenkinson
Treasurer	Stephen Cheek	Jonathan Williamson	Amanda Richmond
Chair of the BAC	Chris Davies	Winston Girling	Chris McArthur
Technical Advisor	Alan Moul & Jed Flatters (to hold post jointly)	Chris Davies	Chris McArthur
PRO	Neal Dodge	Maureen Gardiner	Richard Munnings
Report Editor	Mark Ogden	Mary Garner	Chris Garner
Magazine Editor	Not required as magazine no longer exists		
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Katharine Salter	Stephen Cheek
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

11) Election of Central Council Representatives

- a) Stephen Pettman is standing down as a Central Council representative. He first took up this position in 1984 and Rowan expressed thanks for all his work over the years.
- b) There is therefore one vacancy out of the four representatives the Guild has. If we have one less, the Guild will not be disadvantaged if there is a major decision to be taken within the Central Council, as there is the facility for a member of the Guild executive to be co-opted for that decision.
- c) The meeting unanimously elected the three Central Council representatives.

Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Neal Dodge	Maureen Gardiner	Richard Munnings
Chris Birkby	Sue Williamson	Jonathan Williamson
Cath Colman	Winston Girling	Julian Colman
Vacancy		

12) Election of Trustees

- a) The Constitution requires that at least three members of the Guild executive need to be trustees, but it is proposed that this year there will be a fourth trustee, as Stephen and Rowan stand down in 2023, when their five year term of office as chairman and treasurer ends. A fourth trustee will help with continuity.
- b) Katharine Salter is therefore proposed as the fourth trustee.
- c) The meeting unanimously elected the four trustees.

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

*New election

13) Rule Changes

- a) Katharine introduced the rule changes proposed by GMC in respect of rule 8 (Striking Competition) and rule 12.
- b) The first sentence of rule 8 to be amended to 'The Guild Ringing Master may, at their discretion, specify the method and composition which are to be rung.' This removes the gender specific wording within the rule.
- c) Rule 12 to be amended to 'The Mitson Shield, Lester Brett trophy and the Rose trophy are, and shall always remain, the sole property of the Guild, which may at any time give directions for their locations and safe keeping.' This adds the Lester Brett trophy to the rule, which previously had been omitted.
- d) Alan Moulton seconded the proposed two rule changes above. The meeting unanimously approved the rule changes to rule 8 (striking competition rules) and rule 12.
- e) Stephen introduced the change to rule E16, with rules 17 to 22 renumbered accordingly, proposed by GMC.

- f) Rule E16 is to be removed, to reflect the fact that the Saint Peter's Sudbury fund has been dissolved, so no longer has a place in the Constitution, with the following rule numbers within section E, F and G renumbered accordingly.
- g) Alan Moulton seconded the proposed removal of Rule E16. There were two abstentions when the vote was taken, and the proposed removal was approved by the remainder of the members.
- h) Stephen then introduced the amendment to rule age H2.3, proposed by GMC. The amended rule age H2.3 reads 'Persons in full time education and members over 70 years of age shall pay a reduced rate of subscription.' This revised wording removes the provision that members over 80 do not pay a subscription. The subscription rate for members over 80 will be discussed later in the meeting.
- i) Rowan added that when the subscriptions were last changed in 2019, it was suggested at that time that there was no free category of membership. This had been planned to be discussed the following year but the discussion was held over until now as the 2020 and 2021 AGMs were held on Zoom.
- j) Rowan also explained that members over 80 do not get the benefit of personal accident cover within the Guild's insurance, but public liability cover remains. We may need some evidence that a person is a member in order for a public liability claim to be met.
- k) Peter Harper seconded the proposed rule change to rule H 2.3. The meeting unanimously approved the change to rule H 2.3.

At this point the meeting was briefly suspended to allow the draw for the raffle for the benefit of the bells at Drinkstone, which have been declared unsafe to ring, and the village is now looking to have the bells recast with a new frame and new fittings. The meeting resumed.

14) Subscriptions and peal fees for 2023

- a) All current subscription fees will remain the same, namely adult full members £20, members over 70 £15, members in full time education £10, associate members £10 and non resident life members £10.
- b) It is proposed by GMC that the rate for members over 80 years of age is a reduced rate of £5, from 1st January 2023. This was seconded by Maurice Rose and the meeting unanimously approved the subscription rate of £5 for members over 80 from 1 January 2023.
- c) Stephen reminded members that subscriptions are due, in advance, on 1st January for the year to come.
- d) Peal fees will remain unchanged.

15) 50 Year Membership Awards

- a) Rowan announced that Christine Knight has now reached her 50th anniversary as a member of the Guild. She expressed her appreciation for all the support Christine has given the Guild, including her role as Guild Peal Secretary since 2004 and holding posts in the SW district since 1981.
- b) Rowan read out a 'This is Your Life' of Christine's achievements, including her first peal in 1972 and achieving a First in English from Birmingham University. She thanked Brian Whiting, Alan Mayle and Anne Rueff for their help in putting together the information.
- c) Christine is a very capable and reliable ringer, with 666 peals to date, including 484 for the Guild, including 3 on handbells.
- d) Rowan presented Christine with her certificate and members showed their appreciation.
- e) Christine thanked everyone for their good wishes and said she has had a wonderful 50 years of ringing and has made wonderful friends.

16) St Edmund's Clapper

- a) This was won the last time it was competed for in 2020 by SE district, collecting £1017.98, including Gift Aid.
- b) BAC members have been contributing to the Bell Restoration Fund by encouraging towers to make a donation when minor work has been carried out for them free of charge.
- c) The competition will be run again between this year's and next year's AGM, and is open to towers or individuals.
- d) There will be an award for innovation, similar to 2020, for the most innovative way of raising funds (which won't depend on the amount raised). Rowan encouraged people to record any ideas they have for fund raising on a post it note.
- e) Rowan said that anyone volunteering at the Beer Festival in BSE in June can nominate a charity, reimbursed pro-rata for hours volunteered.

17) Appointment of Independent Examiner

- a) Stephen proposed that B.A.S. Accountants are appointed as the Guild's independent examiner, following the cost-effective and efficient job they have done for the last three years.
- b) This was seconded by Chris Davies. The appointment was approved unanimously.

18) Guild Events in 2022

- a) Saturday 21st May. Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition at Blythburgh. Katharine asked for entries by the Wednesday before if possible. The draw will be at 2 pm, with a Bring and Share tea.
- b) Saturday 24th September Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition and Guild Social. This will be hosted by SE at Offton. Jenny Scase encouraged as many as possible to attend, even if not part of a team. The draw will be at 10am, with a rolling lunch. There will be various activities, such as a treasure hunt and circular walking routes. It will be family friendly.
- c) Saturday 18th June Ridgman Trophy at King's Lynn. We are the defending champions and are entering a band.
- d) Platinum Jubilee 2nd to 5th June. Katharine encouraged towers to ring over the bank holiday weekend and to let her know of any that need help. Additionally, there will be a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3rd June.
- e) Neal is talking to the Diocese about involving as many towers as possible, with certificates issued to those taking part. It was suggested that towers might consider 'mini outings' in order to cover a number of towers.
- f) Veterans' Day on 13th July at Debenham, 2pm to 4pm. Jenny Scase encouraged as many as possible to attend, with no age criteria.

19) Plans for 2023

- a) Centenary Dinner on 25th March 2023, which is the only date the Bishop could make. It will be held at the Masonic Centre in BSE. Ticket price is likely to be in the region of £50 to £60 to reflect the prestige and excellent standard of the event.
- b) A Dinner Committee has been set up and has started planning.
- c) Sound recordings of towers are being collated, and will be available on the Guild website and via QR codes in churches.
- d) The Central Council AGM in September 2023 will be in Ipswich.
- e) Other ideas include an individual trying to ring 100 QPs, and ringing at 100 towers across the Guild.
- f) Adapting the ART '50 things' to 100 things. Peals involving 100 different people could be attempted.
- g) The 100th anniversary AGM to be at Beccles, with a special service, hopefully with the Bishop presiding. Rowan asked members to try and ensure good attendance at the

service, and if necessary, churches will need to be informed that wedding ringing will not be available on the day of the AGM, 15th April.

- h) Brian Whiting asked about progress in writing the history of the Guild. Katharine said that there have been some issues accessing archives, and she prompted officers who have been asked for information to respond. The Guild history will be published in hardback, paperback and electronically.

20) Any Other Business

- a) Diana Pipe is arranging a thanksgiving service and ringing for George Pipe at SMLT on 23rd July 2022. Everyone is welcome, and it will be a very informal day with ringing and a short service.
- b) Rowan recorded the Guild's congratulations to SMLT on reaching the final of the national 12 bell, on 25th June in Guildford. Supporters on the day will be welcome. A round of applause ensued. Rowan has written an account for the RW and the website.

21) Date of Next AGM

Saturday 15th April 2023 in Beccles.

The meeting ended at 6.46 pm.