

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday, June 6th 2003 at 6 Cavendish Road Stowmarket at 7.30p.m.

Those present: Winston Girling (chairman) Alan Moulton (technical advisor) Stuart Harrison Neville Whittell Chris McArthur Richard Coe David Salter Michael Rolph.
Apologies were received from: Bruce Wakefield George Pipe Chris Nunn John Periera David Greenfield and David Moyses.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending, especially in view of the long distances that some members had to travel.

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 7 February 2003 had already been circulated to members and were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Neville Whittell asked about **Sudbury All Saints 7th** (severely decayed headstock preventing bell being used) Alan Moulton said that he has recommended that the crown staple be drilled out and the bell rehung with new fittings. This will require removal from the tower – total cost around £2400 which includes providing steel beam across tower to lower but would be less if bell transported privately. David Salter suggested that if no positive response from Parish Guild be asked to consider funding to get these bells ringable. (cost based on most work in tower being done by BAC and helpers)

District Reports

North East: Sternfield (4, all with half wheels) Michael Rolph and Paul Driver are going to have a look at these bells.

North West: Old Newton Winston Girling has attended and tightened and adjusted bearing plates on 4th which had developed a rumble. Some noise from ground pulley also and new pulley wheels are to be made and fitted in due course. Michael Rolph mentioned that Tony Baines uses plastic trolley wheels which are cheap and already have a bearing fitted. The rim can be turned down to provide pulley profile. **Wickham Skeith** Alan Moulton mentioned that these bells are soon to be rehung in the existing Day wooden frame which is in excellent condition. **Whepstead** Winston Girling is soon to remove and repair tenor wooden headstock. The wheel side gudgeon has become loose and distorted the wheel which now has split on the rim. The bell has hooped and single bolted gudgeons and this particular gudgeon developed play in the hoop which caused the inner bolt to shear and the lower horizontal wheel spoke has been forced away from the headstock by the loose gudgeon.

South East: Brightwell (single bell) Winston Girling had visited and reported at the request of the Parish following architect concern about the bell fittings and frame. Tony Baines is going to provide frame supports and rehang chiming bell in existing wooden frame. **Framsden** Winston Girling had been contacted by Churchwarden. Quinquennial inspection had revealed cracks in tower and loose flushwork on parapet immediately above path to Church. Architect has advised ringing stopped and tower roped off. Muriel Page has had request for peal on Sunday 1st June and regrettably permission had to be refused for this. **Felixstowe St. John:** George Pipe has written advising that new 8 soon ready to try out and Dedication set for Sunday 22nd June at 6.30p.m. Lattice work to be fitted under 4 heaviest bells at SMLT + extra ladder for H & S reasons. Also **St. Peters Ipswich** the back four could go to a good home and leave one bell remaining. David Salter said that Church likely to soon be leased to a business, and that if back 4 bells went together to a good home then he would not object but would not be happy about them being split up. Stuart Harrison mentioned that the bells at **St. Clements Ipswich** are important and must be preserved. Alan Moulton said that these bells are all listed for preservation in any case.

Stuart asked if we should be looking at listing any other bells in Ipswich but Alan said that it would not be possible to list bells just to prevent them being moved from a particular Church. **Easton** Chris McArthur said that bells should be ready by late Autumn. **Bramford** Neville Whittell said that there is to be a meeting next week to discuss tower problems and money is available. **Wickham Market** Chris McArthur said that tower now almost finished and will soon be back in action.

South West: Elmsett telephone call received from Crawford Allen who said that following work on tower Taylors have now been asked to install steel frame which will have one bell hung in it to start with. Millenium Grant is being applied for and they have 8 or 9 thousand pounds at present. With Guild grant still only half the money available.

Technical Advisor's Report: Alan Moulton reported that at **Wissett** a major restoration is being seriously considered. Also that interim jobs on worn out bells to keep them going must be regarded as temporary only by the Church concerned.

Date and Place of next Meeting: 7.30p.m. Friday, 3rd October 2003, at Pippins Mutton Lane Brandeston, by kind invitation of Chris McArthur.

Any Other Business: David Salter reported on **Central Council** issues. (1) He said that if a Church is about to become redundant then we only have control over the bells as long as building still a Church and Faculty procedure applies. Once sold, no way of getting bells out and we **all** need to keep our eyes open to jump in quickly if situation arises. (Stuart Harrison suggested that we should make certain that Registrar is aware of this as they will be first to know) (2) 2 or 3 years ago suggestion was made that a National Bells Register be set up. This has not yet happened but David felt that a Register for Suffolk would be of benefit and he could have a suitable Database produced. Using Ranald's information and 3 or 4 helpers the information could be input quickly. The Meeting was very much in favour of such a Register and David will investigate further and liase with Alan Moulton. (Stuart Harrison felt that there might be a Copyright problem with using Ranald's information – Alan Moulton will speak to Cathy Clouston and get something in writing to cover, and Register would start with credit to Ranald in any case) (3) he (David) is looking at a possible mobile ring for Suffolk.

Stuart Harrison said that he has got 2 bell wheels at **Orford** (from 10 cwt and 8 cwt bells) and they are available if anyone would like them. Also, Lord Bridges, who lives and rings in Orford, has worked hard in the House of Lords to have bell ringing (including mini-rings and ringing meetings etc.) exempted from the new Licensing Legislation and Stuart would like the Suffolk Guild to write to Lord Bridges thanking him for his efforts. Winston Girling said that he would speak to Management and arrange.

The Meeting closed at 9.0p.m.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman

AGENDA for 3 October 2003.

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Confirming and signing minutes
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) District Reports NE NW SE and SW
- 5) Technical Advisors report
- 6) Application for Grants
- 7) Date and Place of next Meeting
- 8) AOB