

## Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.30p.m. on Friday, June 11th, 2004, at 6, Cavendish Road, Stowmarket.

**Those present:** Winston Girling (chairman) Alan Moulton (technical advisor) Chris Nunn Neville Whittell George Pipe John Periera David Greenfield David Moyse

**Apologies were received from:** Julian Colman Bruce Wakefield and Chris McArthur.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous meeting held in February 2004 had already been circulated to members and were agreed and signed.

**Matters arising:** Chris Nunn asked about the problems with the 6<sup>th</sup> pulley at **Woodbridge (8)** and Alan Moulton said that it was not unusual for nylon pulleys to wear down to the spokes.

### District Reports

**North East:** George Pipe reported that there was a great deal of enthusiasm locally to restore **Chediston (6)** where he has given advice and they are now going to get further bellhangers reports on the bells. Need new frame, tenor is cracked, re-tune and hang lower in tower. David Moyse and David Greenfield had both offered to help with re-hang at **Rumburgh (5)** but had been passed a letter from Nicholson Engineering to a Churchwarden which seemed a bit high-handed on health and safety issues. A discussion ensued and came to the conclusion that the letter, having been sent to the Church, was not deliberately designed to upset any voluntary help offered but simply to cover the bellhangers in the event of an accident. Nicholson Engineering had stated that any voluntary help would be covered by their own insurance arrangements. David Greenfield said that **Wrentham (6)** had stopped all ringing, no doubt on architect's instructions and due to tower problems which exist there. Alan Moulton has had call from John Barnes, Central Council, about **Worlingworth (8)** where £10,000 raised specifically for bell restoration could be about to be used for other Church repairs. George Pipe will investigate.

**North West:** Winston Girling reported that Richard Coe has offered to donate a new treble bell to make a peal of 6 at **Haughley (5)** Alan Moulton has volunteered to hang the new bell. He said that **Hopton (6)** are hoping to re-hang the back 4 bells. The chairman thanked all who had helped with the work so far at **Thurston (5)** and it seems that here the builders have only bricked in the support beam ends when they should have been cemented in. This will be resolved. The chairman also thanked all who have helped on the restoration at **Wickham Skeith (6)** where both trebles were found to be cracked in the crown and will have to be welded. With transport this will now cost an extra £2,700. The Meeting decided to recommend to the next Management Committee that an extra grant of £540 be considered (previous grant £2,650)

**South East:** Chris Nunn reported that at **Earl Stonham (6)** some slight alterations and drawing of 3<sup>rd</sup> chute will be necessary to achieve circle of ropes. George Pipe said that at **Ashbocking (6)** the tenor now goes very badly, feels as if a gudgeon has gone? Also the ropes are now very poor indeed. At **Ipswich St Stephen (3)** the

Ipswich Tourist Board have put in a concrete ring and the bells are now available and can be rung from the first floor. At **Ipswich St Lawrence (5)** Stepehn Pettman is taking steps to repair the broken tenor wheel. At **Parham (chiming 3)** there is soon to be a new peal of 6 bells hung for ringing and he will shortly be giving a talk there.

**South West:** Neville Whittell reported that a clapper had broken in the 5<sup>th</sup> at **Polstead (6)** and is to be repaired by Eayre and Smith. Eayre and Smith have also been to look at the damaged 7<sup>th</sup> headstock at **Sudbury All Saints (8)**

**Technical Advisor's Report:** Alan Moulton is endeavouring to put together a spreadsheet showing all towers in Diocese and their bells. George Pipe mentioned that he has a complete collection of postcards showing all the Churches in Suffolk which could be useful if pictures are included.

**Applications for Grants:** dealt with earlier in Meeting.

**Date and Place of next Meeting:** 7.30p.m. Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004, at Dennington Church – ring first – **subject to permission, will confirm when granted.**

**Any Other Business:** the chairman of the Committee regretted that because of personal circumstances he will need to vacate the post at the next AGM and it will be necessary to find someone else to do the job.

The Meeting closed at 9.10p.m.

Winston S. Girling  
Chairman

**AGENDA for 8th October 2004.**

- 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