

## Suffolk Guild of Ringers

### Belfry Advisory Committee – Meeting minutes

#### Stowmarket : 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

- Attendees – W.Girling ( Chair ) , C.McArthur ( Secretary ) , C.Girling , J.Taylor , C. Davies , J Stevens , M. Steggles and N Whittle.
- Apologies – C.Nunn , A.Moult , M.Croucher, and D.Salter.
- Minutes of meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 at Rattlesdon accepted as accurate and signed by W.Girling.
- Matters arising from previous meeting: Winston has completed his work on digitising R Clouston bell records and discs have been circulated to some members of the BAC, although they will not be put on the web site because of the personal details within the tower records.
- District Technical Advisor South East vacancy was discussed and it had been raised at the district AGM. Nobody has come forward and for the meantime W.Girling and N.Whittle assisted by C.McArthur will cover this position.
- Only one grant application was tabled, this being from St Mary le Tower, Ipswich and for Taylors to undertake rust proofing and painting of the frame, as well as refurbishment of the front eight clappers. After discussion it was agreed that a grant of £1500 would be awarded, in respect of the total cost of £13717.20. The committee noted the need for weatherproofing of some louvers to prevent repeated bad rusting, but the chairman assured the meeting that this work was already planned.
- The management committee has requested that maintenance of some towers, where little local expertise exists, be considered and recommendations proposed. After considerable discussion it was concluded that it would be a item at the Guild AGM and subsequent district AGM, s. This would then be followed up by a newsletter article. Although the BAC can give some assistance, local help could be trained by bell maintenance seminars that will be arranged in 2015 as required. It was also noted that the bell hangers undertake maintenance inspections in particular locality groups and that publicity when this was planned could help towers to have themselves included in the listing. Helping with maintenance at towers prior to peals being rung, was considered to be an appropriate ongoing action by BAC members.
- Technical Advisors reported that a grant visit to Elmsett to view the fifth bell had been very satisfactory, although minor corrections by Taylors were planned. At Lt Saxham two bells have been stolen and an insurance claim is currently in progress. A 10 yr old Taylors frame exists and they will hopefully have three bells rehung for chiming. Advice is being given. Otley have had problems with the going of the bells and a team from BAC will undertake corrective maintenance later in February following an inspection by Winston.

- North East District: Halesworth have had sound proofing added and Jonathan Stevens tabled the recorded sound levels in the town that show a very satisfactory situation after this work. Jonathan is also currently working on sound correction at Beccles and maintenance work at Ringsfield.
- North West District: Stowmarket bearing and gudgeon work is now all completed and the go of the bells has improved noticeably. At Redgrave Alan Hughes had recently carried out an independent technical inspection.
- South East District : Wickham Markt bells have all gone back to Taylors last week for new fittings and headstocks and should be rehung by Taylors and locals in approx ten weeks time. St Nicholas Ipswich was rung at Christmas and was not a great problem, although the meeting noted that the treble was on plain bearings and maintenance was overdue. Work on rehanging by Neville in the 1960,s was the last time serious work was undertaken.
- South West District: Whatfield have two bells and are thinking of installing a new frame along the lines of the Elmsett project, advice has been given. Lt. Cornard rehanging is progressing with the structural report having been recently reviewed by John Taylor.
- Next meeting: This will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 at Wickham Market starting with ringing at 7.00pm. If all the rehanging has not been completed by Taylors at this date, then Elmsett will a potential alternative venue. Agenda items to the Secretary by 26th May please.

CIMc 12 February 2015.