

**Meeting of the Management Committee held on Saturday 21 June 1997**  
**at Buxhall Village Hall**

**Present:-** D Salter (Chairman), P Stannard, Mrs K Salter, Mrs S Girt, J Girt, M Rose, D Barnard, R Knight, Mrs C Colman, R Whiting, A Mayle, A Smith, W Girling, Dr B Wakefield (Secretary).

**Apologies for absence:-** R Rapior.

**Minutes:-** The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 1997 had been distributed prior to the meeting. These were taken as read and approved.

**Matters arising:-** None

**Correspondence:-** A letter of thanks had been received from the Palgrave PCC thanking the Guild, and in particular the Mr D Salter and Mr M Rolph, for help with the restoration of the bells.

A letter of thanks had been received from Martin Thorley.

A note had been received from the family of Alec Morris of Ixworth, thanking the Guild for its expression of sympathy, and its donation to St Mary's Ixworth.

**1997 AGM:-** A letter had been received from the Secretary of the NW District expressing the concern of the District at what it saw as the protracted length of the AGM. The District believed that such long meetings deterred members from attending, and that those who did attend could not be expected to focus on all aspects of an agenda as long as it tended to be. It asked the Management Committee to consider the problem, and its root cause, with a view to making proposals for change.

The Secretary reminded the meeting of the items on the 1997 AGM agenda, commenting that all the items had been essential items of business which had to be presented to the AGM. He could see little scope for reducing the length of the agenda. It was thought that the time taken for some items could be reduced. For example:-

- (1) Apologies for absence to be obtained in written form by passing round a sheet of paper during the meeting
- (2) Written nominations for the various officer posts to be requested, and for those posts for which no election is needed the appointments could be made "en bloc".
- (3) Items for AOB to be forwarded to the secretary before the meeting, so that some of the trivia could be filtered out.

The Secretary agreed to reply to the NW District, informing it that the Committee had noted its concern.

**Financial Statement:-** The Treasurer reported that the General Fund was breaking even at present. Subscriptions totalling £3447 had so far been received. There was no evidence of a loss of membership as a result of the increase in subscription rates. Peal fees however were down on the corresponding time last year. He predicted that he should be able to give a more accurate picture at the October meeting.

**Ringling Master's Report.** In his report the Master reminded members of the Code of Conduct with regards to young people, and re emphasised the importance of anyone

who teaches ringers to make sure that they are registered with their PCCs if they teach ringers under the age of 18.

He had inspected the restored Palgrave bells and had found them to be much improved.

He had attended the Ringing World Roadshow, and had written a report of it for the Newsletter. There will be another one in 1999.

He was keeping in touch with the Ipswich council over the housing development at Richmond House, opposite St Clement's church, and had written to them to remind them that St Clement's church contains bells that are rung from time to time. He understood that the need for sound proofing had been written into the developer's planning application.

The Guild striking competitions had gone well, and the employing of a set piece for the 8 bell competition had been particularly successful. There will be a set piece again for the 8 bell competition next year, but not yet for the 6 bell competition.

The insurance returns showed a drop of about 7% on last year's figures.

There were a few seats left on the outing.

Dinner Tickets were now for sale.

The new style letterheads would soon be ready.

### **Sub Committee Reports**

**Restoration and Maintenance.** Winston Girling presented a report of the meeting held on 22 May. Six members were present, and 2 sent their apologies.

**Recruitment and Training.** David Salter presented a report of the meeting of the sub-committee which had been held on 5 March. Five members had attended, and one sent an apology for absence.

The sub-committee wished to purchase a ringing simulator. Its preferred option was the Bagley Ringmaster, which would cost £1000. The management committee agreed in principle to the purchase. The R&T committee would try to raise sufficient funds itself, and would report to the Management Committee in February on how successful it had been.

**Friends of Suffolk Bells.** Once again there was no report.

Mr D Barnard, representing the SE District, reported that it was the opinion of his District that FOSB should either (a) be wound up and replaced with something else, or (b) rested for a year or two and then resurrected under a different name.

Mrs C Colman, for the NW District, reported that her District too had reached the same conclusions about FOSB.

Responding to this concern, the Management Committee agreed to seek the opinions of all the Districts. They would be asked to respond to the following question in time for discussion at the October 1997 meeting. "The Management Committee is considering the future of FOSB. What, if anything, should it be replaced by?"

**Applications for grants.** Applications had been received from Hopton, Tostock and Orford. Hopton were planning to rehang the two trebles at a cost of about £600.

Tostock wished to restore their bells, at an estimated cost of £32275. Orford were proceeding with a project to restore their bells at an cost of £46000.

Details of the three projects were presented, and the following grant offers were agreed.

Hopton	£150
Tostock	£3400
Orford	£4750

**Ratification of NRLMs.** None

**Officers' Job descriptions** Draft copies of job descriptions were distributed. It was agreed that these be discussed in detail at the next Committee Meeting.

**Report of 1997 Central Council Meeting.** Mr D Salter gave a brief account of the meeting. (Full details of the meeting will be published in the Ringing World in due course, and copies will then be available from the Librarian). All four Suffolk Guild Representatives had attended. It was confirmed that the CC will be holding their year 2000 meeting in Suffolk. This will be at Bury St Edmunds. Finally, he reported that he had been asked to conduct a peal for the CC, which he was pleased to say had been successful.

**Year 2000 CC Meeting.** An organising committee will need to be set up. Mr D Salter and Mr A Smith agreed initially to liaise with Chris Rogers of the CC over the arrangements. The committee will be expanded later as necessary.

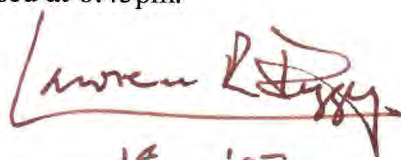
**Any other business** Mr W Girling announced that Orford had been invited to host the 1997 Central Council Bell Restoration Seminar, but before they could go ahead, the CC needed the Guild to endorse it. The meeting willingly endorsed the proposal.

Mr J Girt proposed that the Management Committee should review the payment of subscriptions. It was suggested that there should be a rule change requiring subscriptions to be paid by the 31st March of the year concerned, not by 31 December as at present.. Mr Girt agreed to draw up a proposal to present to the next meeting for discussion.

Mr M Rose proposed that the time had come for another review of the Guild's Rules. He suggested that a special meeting be held to talk about it, ~~and proposed the Swan at Lavenham~~. However because of the absence of a number of key members of the Committee a decision was deferred until the next meeting.

The Master reported that a report was still awaited from the sub committee which had been carrying out a review of the District Structure.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

  
18.x.'97