

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2002

Present: Brian Whiting, Sandra Pereira, Trevor Hughes, Rolie Whiting, Winston Girling, John Taylor, John Pereira, Alan Moulton, David Mulrenan, Richard Gates, Ros Keeper, Robert Scase.

Apologies for absence were received from, Stephen Pettman, Alan Mayle, Eric Bull, James Smith, Matthew Cracknell, Jonathan Stevens.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been published in the newsletter, had been slightly amended by James Smith. These amended minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

St Edmund Clapper. The Chairman was very disappointed that only three towers had participated but was pleased that the Restoration Fund had benefited by £758. Sproughton had raised £418, Barking £187.93 and Offton, £152.50. It was suggested that Sproughton be presented with the clapper at the S E Annual District Meeting. A very good effort by those three towers.

80th Anniversary Dinner. 29th March 2003. Stephen Pettman had booked Henley Community Centre and his wife had agreed to oversee the catering arrangements. It was hoped to provide a four-course dinner for £15. It would be advertised in the December What's On and Newsletter.

Web site. John Pereira continues to work on this. Links with the Change Ringers Resources site had been requested, and needed checking.

Database. Secretary now has full data on over 500 out of 700 members. There was no mechanism for recording members who had paid after the AGM. The insurance policy states that members are only insured if the Guild Secretary has a record of their current subscription. Secretary to chase up District Treasurers on this.

Venue for 2003 AGM This was confirmed as prior ringing at Offton with meeting, tea and evening ringing at Barking. The date is 26th April.

Membership status of Jeremy Spiller. Winston Girling had spoken with him, and confirmed that at the date of the peal in question he was living, outside the Guild's boundaries, with his mother. Under these circumstances it was agreed, with one dissention, to let the peal stand. It was again emphasised that any NRLM who moved into the Guild's area must pay a full subscription to be eligible for peal ringing.

Letter from NW District. The Chairman read out a letter from Keith Ashton-Jones disassociating himself from the letter, which had been received re ringing at certain towers in the NW district. It appears that the letter had been drafted by the NW committee and signed on his behalf, but that he had not seen the final version. Concern was expressed over who had, in fact, signed the letter.

Insurance. Secretary was to investigate other sources of insurance for next year. This to include Library and Handbells.

Correspondence

Referring to his offer to collate peals and quarters for the Annual Report, James Smith had requested that he be allowed to use the Ringing World's Peal record service. This would supply all details of peals, but would cost £50. The committee agreed to this.

A flyer had been received advertising the Ringing World Roadshow which next year would be at Lincoln. It was agreed that a coach outing could be arranged by the Guild. Secretary to follow this up.

Financial Statement

Eric Bull had sent details of the current position. These were circulated.

Ringing Master's Report

There was no Ringing Master's report.

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory

A meeting had taken place on May 30th. Report attached.

The committee had discussed the suggestions from the last GMC re tower classification.

They suggested the following:

Conditions 2 and 3 unringable to be changed to "NOT TO BE RUNG"

The following two paragraphs to be added on the classification page:

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers will not support or condone any attempts by its members, or indeed anyone else, to ring on bells, which are classified as condition 3 or below. At these churches the Suffolk Guild Technical Advisor or deputy, and if necessary the architect, must be present when assessment of the bells or tower is taking place.

(Please note that the classification is based on the condition only at the last date of inspection and any enquiries or requests for further inspections should be directed in the first instance to the Suffolk Guild Technical Advisor or ~~Maintenance Officer~~.)

Porch cards will be reissued, blue for ringable and red for "not to be rung". Arrangements to be made for all red ones to be sent personally to incumbent and/or churchwarden for bells condition to be discussed. It was also agreed that a letter be written to incumbents where there were bells of condition 3 or below.

Condition 4

There are no towers shown in condition 4. It is proposed that the present wording be substituted with " Frame/fittings nearly life expired. Occasionally rung with difficulty for

services/festivals." Classification to be amended throughout to include condition 4 where applicable.

It was agreed to accept these recommendations and put them in place.

Alan Moulton had been in touch with the insurance brokers who were awaiting confirmation from the insurance company re the insurance position on bells of condition 2 and 3.

A letter had also been received from James Halsall, Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, expressing the concern of the Diocese in the matter of insurance. He asked for assurances re permission for ringing. Secretary to draft a letter in the light of the above recommendations.

Recruitment and Training

As the Ringing Master was not present there was no report. However it was mentioned that only two committee members turned up to the last meeting.

Applications for Grants

No applications for grants had been received.

Ratification of Non-resident Life Members

The election of Ann Carpenter of Walsoken, Norfolk (elected at Mendham on 30th September), was ratified. She had also taken part in a peal at Leiston on 28th September. As there had apparently been genuine confusion as to her status, it was agreed to let this peal stand.

Annual Report

Secretary reported that names of advertisers had been forwarded by Stephen Young and that he had agreed to send any computer files. These had been requested but had yet to materialise. Stephen Pettman had agreed to compile peal compositions and peal totals. George Pipe had offered to proof read.

Dates 2003

Guild Management Committee, February 15th, June 21st, October 18th, AGM 26th April, (2004 17th April), Striking Competition 17th May, Training Day 20th September, 80th Anniversary Dinner 29th March. St Edmund Clapper April - September - the Chairman emphasised the necessity to drum up support for this.

Any Other Business

Winston Girling reported that he had sold his first batch of artificial hemp rope, making a profit of £40. He now has a further batch of 600 metres in stock.

Trevor Hughes expressed concern at the fact that late paying members may not be insured. The Secretary emphasised the importance of keeping accurate central records, it is not enough that districts have lists of members.

Rolie Whiting raised the question of a tower grab day in aid of buying a wheelchair for a ringer's son in NW district on the same day as SW ADM. It appeared that despite the advertising this was not a Guild or District event.

Date of next meeting: February 15th 2003 at 6.00pm at Buxhall Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Rolie Whiting
22 February 2003