Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Sunday 16th February 2025
held at Stowupland Church Hall

1. **Welcome**
   a) Mark Ogden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
   b) Members present:
   Officers: Mark Ogden - Chairman, David Everett - Secretary, Katharine Salter – Ringing Master, Tim Hart – Treasurer, Chris Davies - Chairman of the BAC
   North East District: Erika Clarke, Philip Gorrod, Sarah Plummer, Joanna Wilkinson, Tom Grady
   North West District: Neal Dodge, David Steed, Mark Steggles
   South East District: Mary Garner, Jenny Scase, James Smith, Tom Scase
   South West District: Pauline Brown, Richard Knight, Eleanor Waller

   As this was the first meeting of the GMC since the recent District Annual Meetings, the Chairman introduced himself and asked those attending to introduce themselves too. He welcomed new members and thanked those who had stood done for their service to the Guild.

2. **Apologies for absence**
   Apologies were received from:
   North East District: Sarah Plummer, Joanna Wilkinson
   North West District: None
   South East District: Stephen Christian
   South West District: None

3. **Absent Friends**
   From Mary Garner's Report, the Chairman read out the names of Absent Friends who have died since the last GMC meeting, as detailed in her report:
   Michael Taylor (SE, Woodbridge) and Ray Banks (SW, Kersey).

   The meeting took a few moments of reflection to remember them.

4. **The Adrian Knights Legacy**
   MO Welcomed Brian Whiting and invited him to introduce the Adrian (Arnie) Knights Legacy. Arnie was born in Halesworth in 1947 and became a member of the Suffolk Guild in 1960. He rang 1055 peals, 885 of these for the Suffolk Guild. He was a member of the SMLT band for many years travelling in from Needham Market where he lived for most of his working life.
   His legacy is significant, in excess of £250,000 and needs to be carefully managed and used. Whilst it could be used to augment many towers over the years ahead, Brian would like there to be one investment in a 10 of manageable weight as a lasting legacy to Arnie. Careful consideration would have to be given as to where this would be placed considering the placement of the bells from the sustainability of the church they are

placed in, and also whether it would be in a country location or if it would be better in an area with a higher population density. They would also need to available for regular ring including peals and quarters. Brian believes that the ring would need to vested in the Suffolk Guild even if a peppercorn rent needs to be paid to achieve this. Coombs might be a possible venue for such a ring.
Katharine Salter said that Canon Law would have to be considered in this matter.
The following matters were also raised:

- the will says "augmentations" in the plural, not just one augmentation.
- it also says "Augmentations of **existing rings**". Does that preclude funding a new ring?
- the interaction of legacy funding alongside the BRF funding.
- How will funding be awarded? Whole project funding, or just for the augmentation part
- a working group be set up to set the parameters for making and managing the legacy.
- should we fund a whole project or should each project seek to get as much funding from other sources in order that the greatest benefits can be achieved from Arnie's legacy?
- the Guild may be asked to provide project management and funding support as parishes do not always have people do undertake these roles.

It was agreed to set up a working group to agree how to move forward with this legacy. It was agreed that 1 member of the exec, one from the BAC, Brian Whiting as Arnie's executor, and 1 from each District form this working group. This was agreed.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2024**
Chris Davies proposed and Tim Hart seconded that the minutes be approved as correct. They were, nem con.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes, including actions completed**

a) MO informed the meeting that guidelines regarding the making of grants need to be amended. It is the Trustees who have the ultimate responsibility to agree that the GMC agreed grants are paid. It is proposed that two of the Trustees (who do not have any conflict of interest regarding the proposed grant) sign off the grant to be paid after having taken appropriate counsel. If remedial work needs to be made before the grant is paid it is for those trustees to make conditions for the grant to be released. This proposal was proposed by Chris Davies and seconded by Mary Garner and agreed by those present and will now need to be put to the AGM as a proposed Rule change.

ACTION LOG FROM 20th OCTOBER 2024

Item	Action	Owner
(20.10) 7d iii	Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules	Exec still to do
(20.10)10a	CCCBR Affiliation Fees to be included on the next Guild AGM Agenda	On AGM Agenda
(20.10)10b	DE to initiate work on assessing risks to bellringing of Church closures	Secretary in progress

(20.10)11a	Proposal to approve Ruth Young's nomination as Honorary Life Member to be included on Guild AGM Agenda	On AGM Agenda
(20.10)11c	Review of Guild Expenses Policy	Exec ready for review
(20.10)11f	Review of Guild Guidelines relating to making Grants	Exec in progress

4. **Correspondence**
   a) DE said that he had heard from Alan Moult saying that he had stood down as technical advisor. He will continue as DAC Advisor.
   b) MO also informed the meeting that we have received a letter from somebody who has stopped ringing because he felt unable to do the Safeguarding Training as it was too faith focussed for him to do as a non-Christian.

5. **Officer Reports**
   a) <u>Treasurer's Report</u>
   Report considered and there were no questions raised

   b) <u>Ringing Master Report</u>
   There was a discussion regarding the rules for the Striking Competition.

   b) <u>Recruitment and Training Report</u>
   MO asked if there any plans for courses on calling/conducting.

   c) <u>Belfry Advisory Committee Report</u>
   Report considered and there were no questions raised

   d) <u>Membership Secretary Report</u>
   There have been 15 new members elected since the last GMC
   There 674 paid-up members for the Guild as at the end of 2024.

   e) <u>Safeguarding Report</u>
   Report considered and there were no questions raised.

   f) <u>PRO Report</u>
   There was no report.

   g) <u>Webmaster Report</u>
   The Report was received.

6. **Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding**
   There were no further requests for grants.

7. **Ratification of NRLMs**
   There were 7 people ratified at this meeting.

Name	Residence	Elected at / Date
Martin Cansdale		Bures October
David Carling		Leicester Cathedral 8th February
Ivan Culham		Ipswich Minster

8. **Any Other Business**
   a) St Edmund's Clapper – no further suggestions have been forthcoming
   b) Guild Report Editor – Josh Watkins has volunteered to do it this year. MO proposed that he is formally elected at the next AGM.
   c) Peal Secretary – nobody has come forward.
   d) Proposal for Christine Knight to be made an Honorary Life Member. A written proposal had been circulated before the meeting and Eleanor Waller also spoke to the proposal. The Committee endorsed the Proposal from the SW District that Christine be elected an HLM

Date of next meeting

Meetings in 2025 will be on 22nd June & 19th October (both at Stowupland). All these meetings will begin at 2pm.

ACTION LOG FROM 16th FEBRUARY 2025

Item	Action	Owner
(20.10) 7d iii	Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules	Exec still to do
(20.10)10a	CCCBR Affiliation Fees to be included on the next Guild AGM Agenda as information, not decision	On AGM Agenda
(20.10)10b	DE to initiate work on assessing risks to bellringing of Church closures	Secretary in progress
(20.10)11a	Proposal to approve Ruth Young's nomination as Honorary Life Member to be included on Guild AGM Agenda	On AGM Agenda
(20.10)11c	Review of Guild Expenses Policy	Exec still to do
(20.10)11f	Review of Guild Guidelines relating to making Grants	Exec in progress
(16.02)6a	Include Rule Change on ratifying Grants as a motion at the AGM	Secretary
(16.02)9d	Proposal to approve Christine Knight's nomination as Honorary Life Member to be included on Guild AGM Agenda	On AGM Agenda