Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Sunday 22nd June 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, Tom Grady, Sarah Plummer, Joanna Wilkinson,
   North West District: Neal Dodge, Mark Steggles
   South East District: Stephen Christian, Mary Garner, Jenny Scase, James Smith, Tom Scase
   South West District: Pauline Brown, , Eleanor Waller

2. **Apologies for absence**
   Apologies were received from:
   North East District: Joanna Wilkinson
   North West District: None
   South East District: None
   South West District: Richard Knight

3. **Absent Friends**
   From Mary Garner's Report, the Secretary read out the names of Absent Friends who have died since the last GMC meeting, as detailed in her report:
   John Garratt – Brandeston (SE), Brian Beecroft – Palgrave (NW), Marion Turner – Mildenhall (NW), Carole Girling – Stowmarket (NW).

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

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2024**
   Chris Davies proposed and Tim Hart seconded that the minutes be approved as correct. They were, nem con.

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

a) Conflict of Interest Policy – two drafts have been circulated, one put forward by Katharine Salter and the other by Mark Ogden which is based on the Central Council draft policy edited to be appropriate for this Guild. With regard to terminology, this Guild has 2 stewards, the Librarian and the Trustees of the mini-ring and handbells. There are tree workgroups leads, the BAC, Recruitment & Training and Adrian Knights' Legacy Group. MO asked for any comments / amendments to be sent to him and an amended draft will be proposed at the next GMC Meeting for ratification. He also said that he would seek out illustrative examples to explain some of the points in the Policy.
b) The CCCBR Affiliation Fees will be on the next central Council Annual Meeting.

c) Church Closure Risks – we now have a new contact at Diocesan Office, Julie Alcock, and MO will try to contact her.
d) Ruth Young's was appointed as Honorary Life Member at the Guild AGM
e) TH has circulated a draft Guild expenses Policy
f) Guild Guidelines (rather than Rules) relating to making Grants is still in progress
g) Christine Knights was made an Honorary Life Member at the Guild AGM

ACTION LOG FROM 16th FEBRUARY 2025

Item	Action	Owner
(20.10) 7d iii	Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules	In progress
(20.10)10a	CCCBR Affiliation Fees to be included on the next Guild AGM Agenda as information, not decision	Done
(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	Done
(20.10)11c	Review of Guild Expenses Policy	Draft Circulated
(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	Done

6. Correspondence

a) MO reflected on Christine Knights' letter regarding the visibility of the Exec Members to those members in the Districts. MO asked whether it would be useful if the Execs visited the District Meetings? Consensus is that that would be a good thing to do. MO asked how many of the district members know who you are as their GMC Reps? Feeling that they are not god at that communication roles.

7. Officer Reports

a) <u>Treasurer's Report</u>

i. Report considered and there were no questions raised.

ii. TH stated that the cost of 2 striking competitions was considerably more that the income collected. After some discussion it was agreed that District events should be break-even over the year.
iii. TH also asked about subsidising church donations for district outings? These should be self-funding.

iv. Adrian Knights Legacy – TH listed those towers who have registered an interest in applying for a grant from this legacy. It was also suggested that Barham should be added to the list.

b) Ringing Master Report

There was a discussion regarding the rules for the Striking Competition.

c) Recruitment and Training Report

The Report was accepted without any questions.

JC reported on the Ridgman Competition which was held the previous weekend at Boston Stump.

MO reported that lesson plans, starting with ones for primary schools, are being developed by the CCCBR. It is aimed at school teachers. Further developments on this are to come in the near future. DE to send out details when available.

d) Belfry Advisory Committee Report

Report considered and there were no questions raised

CD raised the contentious issue of the rating of rings of bells in the Members Handbook. They are currently rated on technical standing rather than ringability / ringing experience. He proposed that an on-line form be created to obtain member feedback on ringability. PG suggested that it should be sent to the District Ringing Masters in the first instance. It was suggested that the assessment may not be a numerical, but an assessment such as good / reasonable / poor with some comments about suitability for ringing by inexperienced ringers. The Committee agreed that the proposal should be pursued.

e) Membership Secretary Report

Report considered and there were no questions raised.

There have been 13 new members elected since the last GMC

There are potentially 690 members of the Guild as at today's date.

f) Safeguarding Report

The Report was received. The only comments were:

- MO said that he had not received any feedback about what matters you have taken to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers on behalf of the Guild and what feedback you had received from them.
- there seem to be many variations between dioceses as to the advice and requirements that they make on their ringing guilds
- also that the requirements made by individual parishes within this Diocese vary.

g) PRO Report

ND reported that he had been invited to give a talk at Wickham Skeith and that £40 was raised from it.

h) Webmaster Report

The Report was received.

8. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding

CD reported two grants of £1,000 have been previously given to Blythborough for the refurbishment and repainting of the frame. This work has now been completed. However, when inspected they found that two of the clapper bushes needed to be replaced at the cost of £1,350. CD suggested that a further grant of £150 be given towards this work. Proposed CD, Seconded MG. All were in favour.

9. Ratification of NRLMs

There were none put forward at this meeting.

10. Any Other Business

a) MO reported that Caroline Goodchild had volunteered to become Guild Peal Secretary. He asked for agreement that she be co-opted into the role until the next Guild AGM. This was unanimously agreed.

b) SC asked if learners covered under the Guild Insurance as they are the ones most at risk? The answer is that they are as long as they are under supervision.

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 22nd JUNE 2025

Item	Action	Owner
(20.10) 7d iii	Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules	In progress
(20.10)10b	DE to initiate work on assessing risks to bellringing of Church closures	Secretary in progress
(20.10)11c	Review of Guild Expenses Policy	Draft circulated
(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