

Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Sunday 23rd June 2024
held at Stowupland Church Hall

1. Welcome

a) Mark Ogden welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b) Members present:

Officers: Chairman - Mark Ogden, Secretary - David Everett, Chairman of BAC – Chris Davies

North East District: Erika Clarke, Philip Gorrod,

North West District: David Steed

South East District: Stephen Christian, Jenny Scase

South West District: Pauline Brown, Richard Knight, Alan Moulton

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Tim Hart – Treasurer, Katharine Salter – Ringing Master

North East District: Sarah Plummer, Joanna Wilkinson

North West District: Neal Dodge, Mark Steggles

South East District: Mary Garner, James Smith

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:

Helen Brookes – SE Hacheston, Robert Foster (Bob) – SE Badingham, Alistair McArthur – SW Woolpit

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2024

All agreed that the minutes be approved as correct.

5. Matters arising from the minutes, including actions completed

a) There were no matters arising.

ACTION LOG FROM 18th FEBRUARY 2024

Item	Action	Owner
(23.10) 13 e	R&T to consider expenditure of remainder of Golden Bottle Fund once response received from SW and NW districts	Done
(23.10)14a	Policies to be reviewed by Liz Christian in conjunction with Katharine	Done
(29.10)7bii	Amend number of SE members in GRM October report	Done

(29.10) 11d	Establish whether charity law permits the Guild to dispose of donated or bequested handbells	Done
7b	Circulate GRM report within Annual Report to GMC members in lieu of GRM report to February GMC	Done
7f v	Design online audit regarding safeguarding for districts to circulate to towers and suggest way of communicating with districts.	Done
9f	Circulate full SMLT proposal to GMC before June meeting	Now done
10h	GMC members and districts to feed in views about future use of the handbells	Done
11f	Set up pilot of Mojo system and send invitations to GMC members to try it out	Done
15e	Contact Fiona Shuttle to find out latest progress with first QP at Laxfield	Done
15g	Advise Mary Garner of any members with 50 years continuous membership	Done

6. Correspondence

None received.

7. Officer Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported to the Secretary that the MOJO pilot had been successful but it is considered that we should continue with the current process for the time being, however, it may be a project for the future.

b) Ringling Master Report

Report considered and there were no questions raised

b) Recruitment and Training Report

KS had sent an email confirming that the R&T Committee had considered the Drinkstone training plan and were content with their plan as part of the grant application

c) Belfry Advisory Committee Report

In the light of the application for a grant from SMLT, the Guild should consider the parameters for making a Grant as this application is not covered under its current remit.

Consideration for Grant applications is noted below.

d) Membership Secretary Report

- i. There have been 45 new members since the beginning of the year (up from 37 at this point last year)
- ii. There 585 paid-up members for the Guild as at 14th June, however, there are 99 people listed in the last Guild Report who have not yet paid.

e) Safeguarding Report

- i. Liz Christian was not at the meeting.
- ii. Report considered and there were no questions raised.

f) PRO Report

There was no report. MO reported that the CCCBR have issued a consultation on public relations.

g) Webmaster Report

There were no comments.

8. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding

- a) The Application for a Grant of £11k for the work at Drinkstone was discussed and the grant was approved unanimously.
- b) It was noted that the grants which has already been approved for the Westhorpe bells is no longer required as they have been granted sufficient grants from other sources.
- c) The application for a grant from SMLT was considered. They are proposing to install 6 dumbbells in the centre of the tower plus the necessary electronic system to be able to use them for training purposes. It was unanimously agreed to grant £3,000 towards the capital project and a further £1,200 from the Golden Bottle Fund towards the IT requirements.
- d) There were no further requests for grants.

9. Handbells

This matter has been put on hold until the Diocesan Archive re-opens so that research can be undertaken as to the conditions made when the various sets of handbells were gifted to the Guild.

10. Ratification of NRLMs

There were no people that needed to be considered here.

11. Any Other Business

- a) It was reported from Tim Hart that the Milson Trophy has now been repaired and that a means of locking the trophy onto its base has been made so that it is more secure and less likely to be dropped.
- b) There was a discussion regarding the future of the St Edmunds Clapper. With the current parameters and because of the size imbalance of the 4 Districts the outcome is generally predictable and therefore does not lead to any real competition. It was discussed whether this could be used for individual contributions to the Guild because it was decided that it would be difficult to do this without being subjective. Action Point – to consider any other ideas at the next Exec. Meeting.
- c) MO said that we need to be aware that a significant number of church closures are likely to happen in the medium term and we need to consider how this will impact on any rings of bells. This is to be discussed at the next CCCBR AGM.
- d) JS informed the Meeting that the next Veterans' Day Meeting would be at Debenham on 12th July starting at 2pm.

Date of next meeting

Sunday 20th October 2024 (at Stowupland). The Meetings for 2025 will be on 16th February (on Zoom), 22nd June & 19th October (both at Stowupland). All these meetings will begin at 2pm.

ACTION LOG FROM 23rd JUNE 2024

Item	Action	Owner
(23.10) 13 e	Exec to discuss the use of the St Edmunds Clapper going forward	Exec
(23.10)14a	Veterans' Day ringing on 12 th July at 2pm at Debenham	Jenny Scase