

# Meeting of the Guild Management Committee

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, Stowupland Church Hall, 2pm

## 1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Apologies

Maureen Gardiner, Sue freeman, Tom Scase, Michelle Williams, Jonathan Williamson, Mary Garner, Derek Rose, Veronica Downing and David Steed.

## 3. Absent Friends

Members stood to remember Derek Martin, Frank Bloomfield, Susan Dalziel and Lord Bridges

## 4. Minutes of the meeting held in February 2016.

Minutes from February's meeting, previously circulated, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

## 5. Matters arising from minutes

- i. 6. Neal Dodge met with Suffolk MIND regarding St Mary's, Ipswich, and is awaiting to hear back.
- ii. 7.4 – see later.
- iii. 8. Grant Level Guidelines – complete.
- iv. 12. Guild Dinner – see item 10
- v. 13. Rule Changes – completed at the AGM.

## 6. Correspondence

None received.

## 7. Officer Reports

### i. Treasurers Report (OC)

The treasurer reported that Income was approx. £6,500 at the end of May. He reminded the meeting of the need to claim expenses and that Guild funds were available. Insurances had been renewed and information posted and updated on the Guild Website.

The Annual Report was cheaper to produce this year and OC is awaiting payments from advertisers.

Horringer's grant had been paid.

A discussion was had about peal fees. Christine Knight was in the process of chasing these up and asked that peal bands be swift to pay. No applications for grants from the Pipe Family Trust had been made.

A discussion was had about floral tributes at funerals and that in the past the Guild had usually paid for one at a ringer's funeral. The meeting agreed to let OC know should there be any requirement for flowers at a funeral. The GMC confirmed that the Treasurer could should use his discretion with flowers or donations.

### ii. Ringing Master's Report (TS)

Since the last GMC meeting, I am pleased to have been re-elected as Ringing Master at the AGM.

The Guild Striking Competitions at Walsham le Willows and Horringer went well. I congratulate Ipswich, St Mary le Tower and Pakenham for tying first in the Mitson Shield, to Hollesley for winning the Lester Brett Trophy, and to the North East District for winning

the Rose Trophy. I'd like to thank Faith Pearce and Richard Carter for judging both competitions.

My absence from this GMC meeting is due to the clash with the Ridgman Trophy at Cambridge.

As mentioned at the AGM, I intend to re-introduce a Guild peal week, with an emphasis on encouraging members to ring a peal or method(s) for the first time. This is likely to be in the autumn, probably a week in November- look out for further details.

**iii. Recruitment and Training (TS)**

Phillip Gorrod reported that there were 3 new members of the R&T group.. Mark Ogden is hoping to get the young ringers group moving again. PG reported that the R&T felt ringing theory needed to be pushed and encouraged. He also reported that ringing at district level had been well supported. He said that there was lots going on, but nothing concrete.

**iv. Belfry Advisory Committee Report (WG)**

**v. Young Ringers (AW)**

It has been a very quiet few months in terms of young ringer activities – this can generally be put down to exam time for many students. However, despite the lull, Mark Ogden has emailed a proposal for an outing for the Guild's youngsters – he is suggesting a day in mid-July, in a few towers "east of Ipswich". I feel that this appears to be an excellent opportunity which will hopefully inject a new burst of enthusiasm into the young ringers, and an initiative that should be fully backed and supported by GMC.

**vi. Membership Secretary (MG)**

At the end of 2016 the membership stood at 727:

NE 142	NW 189	SE 266	SW 130
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Thirty seven people have been elected since the start of the year:

NE 14	NW 10	SE 5	SW 8
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Of these 3 in FTE category, 24 Full, 9 65-74 and 1 over 75.

It is good to see that new bands are being set up at Yoxford and Laxfield in the NE.

Two members from the SE have died, Susan Dalziel and Derek Martin, whilst another has given up their membership.

Two past members have died, Frank Bloomfield, SE District master from 2004-6, and Lord Bridges from Orford, who was elected in 2000, soon after the bells restored.

At this time the membership stands at 761.

(nb the numbers of members aged 21 and under is 39)

**vii. Public Relations Officer (ND)**

ND reported that Suffolk Day was on 21st June and encouraged ringing.

Radio Suffolk have been promoting the day with 14 towers currently set to take part.

ND had two requests from people wanting to learn to ring.

ND reported that Eastern Angles were reviving medieval dramas and a series of plays set in Suffolk and wanted to highlight change ringing. Leaflets about learning to ring will be reprinted.

**viii. Central Council Reps (ongoing report)**

See the attached document.

## **8. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding**

No grants outstanding.

Application for grants -

Little Cornard work going well so far. An application for a grant had been made towards the cost of £100,079. The BAC suggested we offer £10,000. WG proposed. ND seconded. All agreed.

Cretingham, a peal of 5, want to rehang and augment to 6 at a cost of £32,934. The GMC suggested a grant of £4,000. WG proposed. RE Seconded. All agreed.

Offton are to replace the 6<sup>th</sup> bell and hang the old 6<sup>th</sup> as a chiming bell. The GMC suggested a grant of £1,250.00. PG proposed. RE seconded. All agreed.

A further discussion ensued about the meaning of the terms 'volunteer work' as at item 8 in February 2017 minutes and the inclusion or otherwise of the costs saved when calculating grants. There had been different interpretations. The chairman stated that previous decisions indicated exclusion of costs saved from grant calculation, but pointed out that the matter could be raised as an agenda item at a future GMC where an alternative proposal could be put.

#### **9. Ratification of NRLM(s)**

None.

#### **10. Guild Dinner, Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 – 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

OC would invite Larken Gowen as a thank you for auditing our accounts.

GMC felt we should invite all our patrons – secretary to invite.

CM had approached Bishop Martin to be the after dinner speaker, as president of the Guild.

CM to send details to Guild Website when known.

Caterers – CM to explore with the suggestions of GMC members, please.

#### **11. AGM Review and AGM 2018**

Thanks were expressed and given to the NE tea. Next year the AGM will be in the NW district.

After discussions about the NRLM rule change at the AGM, the GMC would asked MG to write to Neil Avis to describe the NRLM rule and that he should pay or not ring peals for the Guild. The responsibility of checking whether or not ringers of peals are members would be down to the conductor. It was agreed that peals without subs cannot be counted towards the Guild.

#### **12. Mini Ring Use**

The mini ring was used at Beyton and Stowmarket Carnival and was well received. Any other increases of the use of the mini ring would be welcome.

#### **13. AOB – previously notified items.**

ND asked that the Guild promotional material be reprinted. All agreed for 1000 leaflets to be reprinted, at an approximate cost of £120. ND also said other resources were on the website that can be used locally.

The meeting felt that a budget for PR be set for 2018.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017, 2pm, Stowupland Church Hall.

## Central Council 2017 - Edinburgh.

Your three representatives headed to the Scottish capital for this year's meeting of the Central Council where we were joined by around 180 reps from the 65 other affiliated societies.

There were various ringing tours arranged on the Saturday with towers stretching from Glasgow to Inverness. Veronica Downing & I travelled up on the Saturday morning and rung at two of the towers in the city in the afternoon. One of them, Fettes College, was a rather novel ring, being a 2cwt six hung in a small tower of the independent school. We then joined our counterparts from the NDA to form a quiz team where certainly didn't disgrace ourselves and quickly learned that if our answer was a ringing pun it was probably right!

On the Sunday morning there was the usual opportunity to ring for service and I joined the soon to be President of the Council Christopher O'Mahony, & Veronica, to ring at St. Cuthbert's, a fine ten on the edge of Princes Street Gardens.

We then attended the CRAG update meeting on the Sunday morning to listen to the views of the CRAG committee and to take the mood of the members. CRAG (Central Council Review Action Group) is a body that was set up last year to review the organisation and practices of the Council. The report that has been recently published by them was critical of the Council in a number of ways including ethos, structure and accountability and proposed a new set up for the council to improve on the issues it faces. This meeting was chaired by Philip Barnes Chairman of the CRAG. After giving an overview of the objectives, Phil took some questions from the audience.

Before the meeting we sort the views of GMC to form a Guild position on the proposals alongside receiving views from individual Guild members. Overall the message was that we should be generally supportive of the CRAG proposals as, although we may not all 100% agree with the details, the impetus for change must not be stopped.

The proposals can be viewed here

Full Report: [https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/crag\\_full\\_report\\_final\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/crag_full_report_final_for_web.pdf)

FAQs: [\[crag.weebly.com/uploads/9/1/3/4/91345646/frequently\\\_asked\\\_questions\\\_\\\_version\\\_3\\\_for\\\_web.pdf\]\(http://crag.weebly.com/uploads/9/1/3/4/91345646/frequently\_asked\_questions\_\_version\_3\_for\_web.pdf\)](http://cc-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Summary: [https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-](https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/council_review_action_group__short_paper_final_for_web.pdf)

[content/uploads/2017/04/council\\_review\\_action\\_group\\_\\_short\\_paper\\_final\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/council_review_action_group__short_paper_final_for_web.pdf)

After the CRAG update meeting I attended the new members meeting where we were introduced to the officers of the council. We were given the chance to speak to all the committee chairmen to see if we were interested in joining one. I spoke to the Public Relations committee members, given my role within the Guild, gave my details, and to my surprise on returning to Suffolk I found I had been coopted onto the committee! I hope to share the good work we do here in Suffolk and help shape the future of the council as Public Relations is vital if ringing is to flourish so it'll play a big part of the post-CRAG ringing body.

After attending a the Choral Evensong in St. Mary's Cathedral the focus moved onto the Ghillie Dhu, off Princes Street for the evening reception. After a very amusing introduction from one of the local incumbents, the assembled company sat down to enjoy a lovely dinner. This was an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances of previous Council meetings and in my case make new ones. This networking between nearly 200 ringing from across the country I found to be very important part of the weekend as the old phrase is true; 'It's not what you know but who you know' After dinner, the tables were soon cleared away to clear the dance

floor to make way for a ceilidh to the tunes of local band 'Scotch Snap'. Both Veronica and I joined with great gusto!

The relaxing entertainment of the Sunday evening gave way to the business at hand on the Monday morning with the start of the business meeting where Stephen Pettman, the third Suffolk rep, joined us. The Secretary presented a report on representation of societies and subscriptions. Mention was made of the current 'stand-off' at York and Chris Mew spoke of his attempts to meet with the Dean which had been ignored. The ringing future at York seemed to be very uncertain, however since our return from Edinburgh, the announcement has been made of the appointment of a new Ringing Master and so ringing seems certain to recommence shortly.

After the presentation of the Annual Report of the Council and the presentation of the Accounts, came the office election. Christopher O'Mahony of ANZAB now steps up from being Vice-President of the Council to become its new President. After an election between David Kirkcaldy of Sussex and Peter Wilkinson of Chester, David was elected as Vice President. The meeting also elected a new Treasurer (Andrew Smith) and a new PRO. (Caroline Stockmann).

We then moved on to the motions, and for many the most eagerly part of the meeting. The first of these were the reform proposals proposed by the CRAG.

The biggest criticisms of the Council as it exists are that it is ineffective, communicates poorly with ringers, has no strategy and does not promote ringing. It has also been accused of being ineffective, lacks accountability and is insular and inward looking. It was also described as poorly funded and autocratic. These conclusions came from a survey CRAG undertook last year of over 2,000 ringers.

CRAG proposed to rename the Central Council as the 'Council of Representatives' and under terms proposed, the restructuring of the Council will begin immediately and by November 2017, the present setup of 14 committee will be reduced to 6 workgroups, each with its own leader reporting to an executive of 8 members, to include the roles of President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer with 4 additional elected members. This is to separate the elected body from the work of the council so it can be held to account and be properly scrutinised and to allow a small executive to make swift acting strategic decisions.

This is the most radical overhaul of the Council since its founding in 1891. 100 years ago, the Council, with a membership of around 100 members was deemed too big, the membership is now over double that number.

The main concern some reps had with the CRAG motions is the fact there had been no real chance to present these findings to Guilds and Associations, the full report only having been published a few weeks before the Edinburgh meeting. An amendment to reword the motion to include greater consultation was rejected by the meeting; with Doug Davies from the Kent Association summing up the mood of many ringers with "What are we waiting for?" Two of your reps voted for the amendment with one against.

When it came to the vote on the motions, it was carried overwhelmingly with all three SGR reps voting for the motions so CRAG will now work with the existing officers of the Central Council in formulating rule changes & implementing the reforms which the Council has now in principle voted to accept. The new organisation will 'go live' from the 2018 meeting. During the debate Veronica spoke of Suffolk's broad support for the CRAG proposals.

After all the excitement of the above, came the presentation of the Committee reports and elections to the various committees, this is a process which has been speeded up by the need to have nominations before the meeting. Most of the work of Council is carried out by Committees and it is always interesting to hear reports of their work and their future plans.

I questioned the Public Relations committee on what they & the council had learned after the massive coverage the York Minster events, and the 'Is bell ringing a sport? Debate' received from the press; given that the council was too slow to react and capitalise on the publicity garnered especially regarding York as all the information was

coming from the Dean with no view from the ringing community. The response was that York was a unique situation but we should all make special efforts to maintain a good relationship with our incumbents & other church officials.

A motion to wind up the bell rescue fund was passed overwhelmingly, most, if not all, bell rescue work is now carried out by the Keltek Trust. During the Methods Committee motions Stephen spoke on whether the decision to allow methods that are false in the plain course would mean they would be kept separately, the committee agreed that they would. Other decisions agreed included; allowing peals on simulators provided they are rung by human ringers; and removing the requirement for peals to be heard outside the building from which they are rung.

In the midst of all of this, the AGM of the Ringing World Ltd took place. RW Chairman Nigel Orchard gave an overview of the activities of the journal stating that the installation of the new software has made editing much easier although there are still some software issues to resolve. BellBoard use continues to soar and the board themselves continue to look at further cost-savings, including the possibility of working remotely.

I asked if the excellent features that BellBoard offers such as bells rung on, days rung on, composition prover, and the exporting functions were going to be made easier to find as currently there are either hidden deep in the news menu or not shown at all. I was pleased to hear that a new user interface will be launched shortly and a paid developer is to be recruited to further improve the functionality of the site. With over 5,000 registered users 22.5 million views last year, compared to just 2,000 RW subscribers I believe BellBoard will be the savior of the Ringing World and I'm glad it's now getting the investment it deserves.

A brief presentation was held concerning next year's meeting is to be held at Lancaster University and will form part of a wider ringing festival which all ringers are encouraged to attend.

As it was my first council meeting I was sure what to expect but I was pleasantly surprised, it turned out to be a well-run weekend with the chance to meet & discuss ringing with people from around the world who genuinely care about the future of our art. Some of the stereotypes did ring true, I was one of only handful of reps under 40 years old, it did seem that the way the council is structured hampered any natural progress and that any successes were a result of committed individuals rather than the organisation as a whole. However, speaking to the new president & vice president was very impressive with the attitude they took so I believe if these CRAG reforms are implemented properly and the passion that ringers have can be effectively used, ringing can transform itself into the successful organisation it deserves to be.

Overall it was a great experience and I'm looking forward to next year. We have one vacancy for a rep so if you fancy a ringing weekend away next May to Lancaster, please have a chat with me or the other reps. It's not as bad as its reputation and as a new member & relatively inexperienced ringer it wasn't intimidating and I was encouraged to share my thoughts & views.

Neal Dodge Great Barton CC Rep & Public Relations Officer