

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Saturday 18th February 2006 at 6:00 pm in the Methodist Chapel, Old Newton.

Present: Winston Girling (chairman), Mary Garner (secretary), Keith Ashton-Jones (treasurer), Richard Knight, David Mulrenan, Ian Harris, Trevor Hughes, Jonathan Stevens, Robert Scase, Rolie Whiting, Carl Melville, Jason Busby, Stefan Labedzki, Maurice Rose

Welcome Winston (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the new venue.

1. Apologies: Revd Brian Redgers, Richard Gates

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2005 were amended, by adding James Smith to the attendees, then agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising from those minutes not itemised later in the agenda:

(i) Peal Fees After much careful thought the Peal Secretary considers it impractical and largely unnecessary to impose a time limit on the payment of peal fees. Furthermore it would be unfair on the remainder of the band if a peal were rejected for this reason. All peal fees for 2005 were collected by the first week of February and Christine wishes to record her thanks to the helpfulness of the conductors. She does not seek a rule change.

A plea was made to ensure that Peals sent to Campanophile are forwarded to the Ringing World, since the peals have to be in the Ringing World for them to be recognised.

(ii) Leonard Sharpe bequest

The situation has become clearer since the last GMC. Winston has made enquiries, has seen Lenny Sharpe's brother and has a copy of the will. The money received was directed to the Restoration Fund and is there now. Winston has spoken to representatives of the Ixworth Bell Restoration committee and the Guild awaits a formal grant application from them.

(iii) Guild Striking Competitions

A proposal had been received from the Ringing Master that Rule 3 should be deleted from the "The Mitson Shield and Rose Trophy Striking Competitions". This would allow people other than the official reserve to ring in more than one team.

There was considerable and lively discussion about the number of teams a person could ring for. Various scenarios were considered especially where people rang regularly in several towers Sunday by Sunday, also to consider the possibility of ringing for both tower and district. It was felt that taking part should be "in the spirit" of the competition but that it might further the standard of ringing and enable more to listen to "good" ringing.

Richard Knight proposed the rule change and it was seconded by Maurice Rose. It was carried unanimously and the GMC will present it at the AGM.

Concern was expressed that two independent judges for the Mitson Shield and the Rose Trophy had not always been available recently and reassurance was sought that this would not be the case this year.

Disappointment was expressed that the names of the judges had not been presented to this meeting, as had been the custom in the past.

(iv) Sudbury, All Saints

Richard Knight reported that the meeting mentioned at the last GMC had not taken place, but that a letter had been received from the new incumbent, Rev Dr Gill. He outlined the position as he sees it. One option is to remove the bell and have the work done, supported by the Diocesan officials, the other is to have the work done in situ. He said that the second might be a possibility financially, since top priority was to repair the church wall and build a new office, the vicarage having been sold. Winston (Chair of BAC) understands that doing the job in situ would be possible. Richard was asked to contact the vicar and ask him to obtain quotes for the job. It was encouraging that the vicar had approached the Guild and it was felt that the worst case scenario would be an odd struck bell. It was asked whether the tower would be rung regularly which at present seems unlikely since no band exists in the town at the moment. It was suggested that this work could be an opportunity for mission for the parson.

11. AGM arrangements ~ Bury St Eds 22nd April

The following details were presented to the meeting by Winston.

Meeting at 3pm

Cathedral Evensong 5.15pm

Tea 6.15pm

Ringling at the Norman Tower until 9pm

The Ringing Master will be asked for details of ringing available on the way in to the meeting. **Action MSG**

12. 2005 Report

WG told the meeting that the report had been prepared and was ready to go to the printers. The Report Editor sent details of the costs of printing, 900 copies for £1084.00 and 1000 copies for £1120.00. MSG said that the membership had increased from 681 to 698 and that she had only a few copies left. In the light of this the committee proposed that 950 copies should be ordered. **Action MSG to advise Report Editor**

WG reported that there had been some discussion about printing the details of two peals each with 400 methods. It was agreed finally that the peals would be printed with Ringing World references for the methods. He wished to have recorded that he feels concerned that we are not printing these in full.

There was considerable and heated debate. A GMC member could remember when a Ringing World reference has been put in before, but this was thought to be about 20 years ago. The secretary had read all the minutes that she had available, back to 1997, but she had found nothing recorded. Many points of view were offered from pride in ringing a record peal which should be noted in full to the smallest acknowledgement being sufficient and the number of resident members ringing.

Trevor Hughes made the following proposal, "that the decision not to print the peal in full is against the Guild Rules and the peals in their entirety should have been printed". This was seconded by Ian Harris. There were 13 votes for and one abstention.

It was decided that Jeremy Spiller will be apologised to and that the peal will be printed in full in the 2006 report. **Action WG**

Further it was felt that this committee should make a decision to save difficulties arising for future reports. Eventually the following proposal was made by Richard Knight "that peals of more than 42 methods should not be printed in full but that the Ringing World reference should be given". Secunder KAJ

An amendment was proposed "...should not be printed in full "unless it is a record in number of changes or methods" Proposed Trevor Hughes, seconded David Mulrenan. The amendment was not carried, four for, 5 against and five abstentions.

The proposal was not carried with 6 for, 7 against and 1 abstention

13. Any other business

1. MSG proposed that "Prospective new members should fill in an application form which will be taken to the meeting where they are to be elected." This was seconded by Jonathan Stevens and carried unanimously. **Action MSG** will prepare a form to be sent to district secretaries which will be posted in downloadable form on the website.

2. Following recent SAFE training, Carl Melville offered to act as a Child Protection person for the Guild. WG thanked him very much but said that the Guild policy was to advise using the Central Council Guidelines. However Carl could be appointed as Guild Liaison Officer.

3. MSG announced a NE District Barn Dance to be held at Halesworth Village Hall on Sat Apr 29th at 7.30, £7.50. Bring your own drink. It will be the culmination of a q peal fortnight to be held in the NE. Richard Rapior, on 01728 453855, has tickets.

4. Maurice spoke for the whole committee in thanking WG, MSG and KAJ for all the work done during the year.

5. David Mulrenan put on record his thanks for the change of venue to somewhere more comfortable.

6. Richard Knight expressed great disappointment that the Ringing Master was not present again.

7. It should be noted that New Rector of Lavenham is now willing to allow more peal attempts in a year.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm, with thanks to Carl for making the tea and coffee.

14. Date of next meeting:- 25th June 2006 at 3pm.