

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
at 6:00 pm, in the Methodist Chapel, Old Newton

**Present:** Winston Girling, (Chair), Mary Garner (Sec), Richard Munnings (Master), KAJ, Trevor Hughes (NE/Ht), Jonathan Stevens (NE/Sx), Carl Melville (NW/St), Maurice Rose (NW/Th), Richard Gates (SW/Sd), Rolie Whiting (SW/Hd), Richard Knight (SW/Cl), Rev Brian Redgers (SE/Ip), Robert Scase (SE/Lo), Marion Turner (NW/MI).

**Welcome:** Winston welcomed everyone thanking Carol and Carl for the refreshments. He asked the meeting to stand in remembrance of Colin Steele from Bildeston and Michael Musgrave from Hollesley, who died recently.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Jason Busby (NE/HI), David Mulrenan (NE/Hx), Richard Beeston (SE/Sa), Bruce Wakefield (PRO), Brian Hale (Ix) Ian Harris (NE/Be)

**The Minutes** of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

## **Matters arising from those minutes not itemised later in the agenda:**

(i) John Banks will be 100 on 31st October. Richard Munnings will try and arrange a peal to mark this event and will inform Shirley Girt. **Action RJM**

(ii) Hartismere Deanery removal to NW. WG reported that he had spoken to Philip Gorrod. WG understands that the two districts are asking for this to take place, NE and NW have agreed. It will be taken to the AGM and Philip Gorrod has undertaken that all towers in the deaneries concerned are contacted. .

### **Change of constitution MSG**

(iii)MSG has written to the Bishop designate inviting him to be President of the Guild and is awaiting his reply..

(iv) Alan Mayle who currently looks after St Peter's Sudbury has been contacted. His reply is awaited regarding his thoughts on the position being an officer of the guild.

(v) The PRO has accepted the invitation to belong to this committee, but sends his apologies for today's meeting.

(vi) John Girt A reply had been received

(vii) Presenting the Examiners Report. KAJ discussed this with Philip Gorrod and the report editor. It was felt that the timescale was really too short to put the details in the Guild Report. KAJ will produce copies to hand round at the AGM. After AGM approval it will be published on the website and copies sent out with reports that are requested.

The question of 50% to the Bell Restoration Fund being required for charity status. KAJ reported that the Guild had been putting 50% in the Restoration Fund for a great number of years before Charity status was applied for.

## **Correspondence**

(i) A number of reports have been requested and sent out.

(ii) Grant acknowledgements had been received from Fressingfield and Stradishall

(iii) Ringing Roadshow. Eleanor Linford had requested contact details for district secretaries.

(iv) Unringable Bells John Barnes CCCBR. **Action: Alan Moulton/Michael Rolph will be asked to do this.**

(v) Campsea Ashe had e mailed with thanks for Guild Support at their launch, attaching a newsletter and requesting an April date for a non clashing activity!

Mildenhall rep asked for clarification re Mildenhall bells. Are they still restricted to the front 6? Still awaiting a report promised a while ago. Discussion followed re the architect.

### **Action: WSG to speak to Alan Moulton**

(vi) Don Robinson Framlingham, porch notices? Does anyone know where they came from and how to get a replacement? David Salter did them. **Action: MSG**

(vii) Carol Girling had sent a letter regarding subs, asking the GMC whether it would support a flat rate for subscriptions, ie everyone either paying £10 or £5. Discussion followed regarding the reduced over 65 rate and the over 75 rate as a reward to long service, opposed to there being no connection between ringing and subscription payment. It was agreed that KAJ would look at the figures with regard to the current membership and bring them to the next meeting. **Action KAJ & MSG**

(viii) White Ribbon Campaign 25th Nov -10th Dec MSG had received a phone call asking for Suffolk Guild help with advertising this campaign. E mails had been exchanged with PRO and Marianne Fellowes from the campaign.

Discussion followed and the suggestion of firing was put forward as something unusual, possibly in Ipswich where several towers could ring out simultaneously. **Action: RJM & MSG**

### **Financial Report**

KAJ reported that the General Fund was on target to leave a starting balance of one year's expenses, ie £4000. He sounded a note of caution regarding the possible costs to be incurred from recruitment and training. The Restoration Fund is benefiting from the significant investment from the Lenny Sharpe bequest. Income for the year should be about £10500. Grants approved total £8400 and there is £35000 available for allocation. WG thanked KAJ for his work on behalf of the Guild.

### **Ringling Master's report**

RJM reported on the Guild Training Day held at Hollesley earlier on that day, focussing on listening and using the simulator. It was felt to be very successful with 12 pupils from Long Melford and Woolpit, along with a number of helpers.

Elsewhere he reported that the Young Ringers are having a few difficulties due to lack of ringers. If you have got youngsters in your area, please try and take them along to Tostock to help. Transport is obviously required and they'd be pleased to see some older people too.

He was pleased to report that peals are being rung by a greater number of people, including different methods at a wider variety of towers than previously. Both peal and quarter peal ringing help to improve the overall standard of the art.

Since the last GMC he has become ringling master at St Mary Le Tower and he is encouraging all Guild members to come along, even to bring their practice to Le Tower once in a while.

The Lundy Island trip was a great success and Mandy's trip to Dorset was social as well as ringling.

A two page spread on aspects of ringling and Lundy Is is planned by the EADT and RJM's contact is Don Black. Once published a copy should be sent to the Guild Librarian.

RJM gave advanced warning of Guild Peal week which is to be 8<sup>th</sup> Feb to 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008.

WSG thanked RJM for his report and work and invited questions. MR added his thanks and support.

The chairman, WSG, said that he was most impressed, it had been a Training Day with a difference. He was bowled over by the the simulator, and how it helped the people involved. Here was a help for striking and it was most enjoyable. He said would be good place to have a simulator in Stowmarket because it's central. The cost for the electronics is about £3-400. This is an Abel system. Striking is perfect so anything wrong can only be you. In effect this would make a ringling centre. He asked whether the Guild would support this in principle. He also felt that he could approach the PCC as well.

£150 was proposed for a simulator at Stowmanrket.

Discussion followed regarding where ringling centres would be best placed and how they should be funded. It was noted that small amounts of financial investment produced great advantage. Which Fund should be used. It was decided that George Pipe be approached with regard to the Pipe Family Trust It was proposed and seconded that £150 should come from the Pipe Family Trust **Action WSG**

MT asked if someone could research the costs for Mildenhall. Concern was expressed about the site of such centres and caution was sounded with respect to awarding grants willy nilly for this. After some more discussion it was decided that districts will be contacted for their views to be brought to the February meeting.

**Action RJM**

Congratulations were expressed regarding the recent peal at Wilby. RJM was pleased to report that Louis Suggett had taken part in it.

**Sub-committee reports:** i. *Belfry Advisory committee* WSG reported that:

- (i) there had been a test ring at Laxfield where there was concern about the frame and daylight visible through the masonry in places.
- (ii) Quotes to rehang Cratfield are under way
- (iii) Ringers for Fressingfield are learning to ring in Norfolk.
- (iv) Mickfield want 3 bells for chiming, they would fit in the tower. It is no longer privately owned and they do have services.
- (v) In the NW, at Risby, there are three largish bells rung for full circle ringling. There is concern over the tower, but the bells go quite nicely. A new slider and stay have been fitted.
- (vi) Onehouse, now serviced and will be OK for chiming.
- (vii) Ixworth now have all the money needed and have ordered the two new bells
- (vii) Wickham Skeith had a loose clapper, now OK.
- (viii) At Bacton the wrought iron clapper in the 5<sup>th</sup> fell out & has been replaced.

- (ix) Helmingham are going for a rehang. CAMPSEA ASHE has asked for grant,
- (x) Framlingham had problems with clapper movement which have been sorted out.
- (xi) At Woodbridge, there is concern about cracks. It will be looked at shortly.
- (xii) Charsfield have got a bell in the porch which might be stolen. They will be asked to move it.

**Action: WSG**

(xiii) At ALL SAINTS Sudbury Jonathan Stevens will make a laminated headstock for the 7<sup>th</sup>. The work is awaiting a faculty application. RK says they have been offered eight second hand ropes.

#### ii. *Recruitment and training*

As already discussed there has been no formal meeting, but RJM hopes to get meeting under way shortly and expects to be able to report on it at the next meeting.

#### **Applications for grants.**

**Elmsett** has a 6 bell steel frame with two bells at present. The cost of hanging an additional bell is £2761. JJS proposed that the Guild offer a grant of £350, seconded by Carl Melville and agreed by all.

**Action: MSG**

**Campsea Ashe** have launched a fund raising campaign to augment to 6. The cost is estimated at £56 070, plus some additional tower work. A grant of £6500 was proposed by MR and seconded by RJM and agreed by all.

**Action: MSG**

#### **Ratification of NRLM**

The meeting ratified the following:

Neil M Thomas; Stephen R T Pocock; Michael G Clements; Alexandra A Prabhakar; Margaret E E Forrest; Paul E Bibilo; Susan J Healy; Jonathan P Healy.

#### **Guild AGM date for 2008 and beyond**

There was considerable discussion regarding a suitable date for the foreseeable future. Eventually it was agreed that the AGM for 2008 would be on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action: MSG to inform Report Editor and web master.**

#### **Guild Report and Handbook 2008**

A quote for the printing has been received from EAM Printing. 950 copies for the same size as this year, £1065, for an extra four pages £66.

JJS proposed and RJM seconded that this quotation was accepted. It was carried unanimously.

**Action: MSG to inform Report Editor.**

#### **Guild Dinner 15th March 2008**

Plans are well in hand. Woolpit Village Hall is booked which has a capacity of 140. Two caterers have been approached, contacts through MR and DM. It was suggested that our new president should be asked as a guest.

**Action: RJM and MSG**

#### **Any other business**

(i) Please note the change of e mail address for Ruth Suggett [bardwell.ruth@googlemail.com](mailto:bardwell.ruth@googlemail.com)

(ii) NDA calendars MSG had hoped that we might be able to offer our own, but that wasn't to be. However she can take orders for NDA £3.50 each.

(iii) Robert was congratulated on a nice tribute to to the Barnard family in Ringing World

(iv) A question was posed re the Guild Library. Could consideration be given to placing in a more accessible place that at present. A place where it could be browsed. It will be an item on the agenda for Feb in the meantime The Librarian's thoughts will be sought.

**Action MSG.**

(v) Ringing in Ipswich Sat 22nd Dec 11.45-12.15 Brian Redgers. Offers of help please.

(vi) Help on 1st Dec Stowmarket please Christmas Tree festival and open tower, 10-4pm.

(vii) Should there be a rounds and call changes for Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition. It has happened in the past and it was noted that the call change trophy is at Debenham. Perhaps there could be a competition between Deaneries. Item will be put on next Agenda.

**Action: MSG**

(viii) Queen's diamond wedding on 22nd November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

#### **Date of next meeting, Sat 16th February 2008, 6pm Old Newton.**

Additional items for the February agenda to be notified in writing by 16th January, please.

Mary Garner  
Hon. Secretary