

Minutes of GMC Meeting 16th February 2013 Stowupland

Present: Philip Gorrod (Chair), Jed Flatters (Master), Mandy Shedden (Secretary) Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Jonathan Stevens (Technical Advisor), Jason Busby (NE Halesworth), Trevor Hughes (NE Hoxne), Julie Rapior (NE Saxmundham), Alan Stanley (NW Hartismere), Marion Turner (NW Mildenhall), Maurice Rose (NW Thingoe), Revd. Brian Redgers (SE Bosmere), Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh), David Smith (SW Clare), Linda Goodban (SW Lavenham), Derek Rose (SW Sudbury).

Apologies received from: Brian Hale (NW Ixworth), Peter Harper (SE Colneys), Robert Scase (SE Loes), Sally Munnings (SE Ipswich), Mary Garner (SE Samford), Kate Eagle (SE Woodbridge), David Steed (NW Stowmarket)

1. Welcome

PJG welcomed everyone to the meeting and new members from SW District David (Clare Deanery) Smith and Linda Goodban (Lavenham Deanery).

2. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2012 circulated previously, were agreed proposed by Alan Stanley seconded by Derek Rose

3. Belfry Advisory Committee Report

Our most recent meeting was at Kersey on Monday 4 February, postponed from the 22 January due to the weather. Those who attended found Neville handy with the kettle and biscuits.

We learned that the tenor at Long Melford has had its bearings cleaned and repacked and had the headstock ironwork tightened. This work was looked after by Neville.

Winston has been busy at Thornham Magna where the Guild six bell will be held later this year.

Redgrave has had the go ahead for its project from the District Council, but is waiting for permission from the Churches Conservation Trust which owns the building.

In November (10) as Technical Advisor I ran a Belfry Training Course at the invitation of the North West District; this was held at Rougham. We looked at the outside of the tower and discussed the sound and structural issues there, then moved to Ringing Chamber, Sound Room and Belfry. At each stage we discussed the ideal and how to make it nearest that. I aimed to give the students a grounding of the essentials of bells and towers and in the language involved.

As your BAC Chairman I had a meeting in December with the new Archdeacon of Suffolk the Ven. Ian Morgan. We spent some time together talking about the role of bells and ringing in the church and the role of the Suffolk Guild in ringing, training, belfry maintenance and restoration, including funding. The Archdeacon has asked for a tower visit and introduction to the mechanics of bells and ringing.

Following an invitation, 24 January saw the BAC Chairman at Church House, London, for a CBC (Church Building Council) policy meeting on "The future of Bells and Bell-frames in closed and closing churches". Others attending included EH, Church Commissioners, Keltek Trust, Churches Conservation Trust and various other Bell Advisors. The meeting was chaired by Dr Alan Thurlow who chairs the CBC Bells Committee. In private conversation and subsequently I lobbied for the policy to include Territorial societies on the list of those to be consulted alongside EH and SPAB.

The next meeting will be at Bredfield on May 14 2013.

Jonathan Stevens
BAC Chairman
Guild Technical Advisor.

4. Applications for grants

An application has been received from Alan Moulton on behalf of Woolpit PCC for a grant towards the total cost of £10,000 for repairs to the bells and fitting at Woolpit. BAC suggested a grant of £1000 would be appropriate. The GMC agreed this amount and an offer letter will be sent to Woolpit PCC.

5. R&T Committee

JF advised that there was nothing to report but a meeting is to be convened for some time in March.

6. Ringing Master's Report

It has been a very quiet period for me following the Sept. meeting with a long break over Christmas whilst I was with my family in Spain and an enforced lay off during the grotty weather curtailing any forays out to the district practices.

That said I have continued to organise the last Thursday surprise minor practice and we have had some good achievements though at times we could do with more support this is open to all who wish to ring more than Cambridge.

I continue to support Peter and Jane in the second Tuesday meetings, and enjoy the social side as much as the ringing, the December day being a good example. Although the support is often by the same old crowd and the ringing standard varies it is always a good day out.

The SE outing into Norfolk was a good if cold day out with a good turnout especially from the learner element of the district, thanks to Tom Scase for a well run trip.

I managed to attend each Districts annual meeting, though I ran it a bit fine getting down to Bures. It would have been nice to have seen more support at each of the meetings but I know the long Saturday ringing/service/tea/ meeting and more ringing is not to everybody's liking. It was good to see a number of new members elected at each meeting.

A freezing cold Saturday saw a number of us at Reydon for the second ITTS module 1, Six new trainers benefited from this and I understand that as a result of this Halesworth ringers have held a bring a friend to get new recruits. Thanks to Michelle and Ambrin for all of their help and especially for providing lunches

As I write this a module 2 change ringing course has just been held at Bury, some 10 people attended and again Graham Nabb gave us an interesting take on how to progress a ringer from rounds and call changes into the world of methods without the difficulties so often seen. These courses are good eye openers so please give them a try.

Finally congratulations to Maggie and Philip on their marriage in late Oct.

Jed

PJG commented that he has attended ITTS meeting at Reydon and felt that he learnt a lot, especially in relation of how to teach new ringers properly. MT told the meeting that another ITTS scheme has been started at Mildenhall.

Seven peals have been arranged for the forthcoming peal week

7. Treasurers Report

Overall

The accounts for 2012 have been finalised and sent to the Report Editor and also to the Examiners.

General Fund

Leaving aside the final donation made in 2011 to the Vestey mini-ring, General Fund income in 2012 increased slightly compared with 2011 from increases in subscription income and peal fees. General Fund expenditure also increased from 2011 with the introduction of insurance for the Guild's handbells and the purchase of publicity banners. Further savings were made in the printing of the Annual Report and in administration costs, but a stock of rope was purchased for resale within the Guild. The net effect after an increased transfer to the Restoration Fund is a reduction in the General Fund of £359.

Restoration Fund

Restoration Fund income was down by 7% on 2011 although still significantly above the 2010 level. For the fourth year running Grant approval at £6,600 was relatively low (£1,850 in 2011, £5,500 in 2010 and nil in 2009). The sum now available for allocation to new projects stands at £49,078. The interest on our deposit account has diminished substantially in recent years as interest rates have fallen. To help offset this £45,000 has been invested in one-year bonds through the Charities Aid Foundation.

Of the previously allocated grants totalling £5,200, only £600 was paid in 2012 as the other projects are on-going. The amount reserved for grants allocated to the four projects still in progress stands at £11,200.

Strategy

The year 2012 was satisfactory from a financial point of view with the loss on the General Fund in line with expectations, and equivalent to the one-off expenditure on the publicity banners. Unless we meet any unexpected expenditure, I expect us to roughly break even next year and make a small loss in 2014. In view of the healthy balance in the Restoration Fund I am proposing that the subscriptions for 2014 are kept at the current level.

MR seconded the treasurer's proposal

8. Ratification of NRLM's

The election of the following NRLM's was ratified by the committee

Mark G Lloyd, David H Sansum, Mark O'Halloran and Nikki O'Halloran

9. Succession Planning

No one has been identified as a successor to PJG yet. Some discussion ensued as to suitable prospects. Brian Whiting was suggested. PJG adjourned the meeting for 5mins while he telephoned BW for his response to the suggestion.

PJG reported back that BW would think about it, but that it is necessary to have alternative plan in place in case BW refuses to stand. He asked the question of the committee whether or not they felt the new chairman should be a talented ringer and the general consensus was that it was not necessarily a prerequisite. Philip urged members to continue to try and find someone who was willing to stand as a new chairman.

10. Districts Committee

Guild Constitution and Rules relating to Deaneries – (B) Proposed

C. DISTRICTS (revision to the Constitution)

5. There shall be four Districts, North East, North West, South East and South West. Towers may move from one District to another with the agreement of both Districts and subject to approval by the GMC.

GUILD RULES

9 The Guild Management Committee (GMC) shall consist of:

Guild Chairman Treasurer

Ringling Master Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee

Secretary Elected Representatives from each District

The number of elected representatives from each District may be changed by agreement of the GMC.

DISTRICT RULES

20 The following Officers shall be elected annually: Chairman; Ringling Master; Secretary/Treasurer, Magazine Correspondent and District Representatives. Each District shall also elect up to five representatives (who may hold other office in the District) to serve on the GMC and two representatives to serve on the RTC.

The changes were proposed by GS, seconded by Linda Goodban. The vote was carried with one abstention.

David Smith proposed that all references in constitution and rules referring to newsletter be changed to magazine, AS seconded. PJG proposed that changes in constitution should be displayed on the web site. GS seconded.

Rule 26.1 14 days' notice to RW, and by publication on the guild website was proposed by GS seconded by JB. All proposals were carried.

11. AGM Arrangements

Finalised details are as follows.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Annual General Meeting

Saturday 6th April 2013

2.00-3.00pm Fringe Meeting:

Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road Stradbroke IP21 5JN

“What are Church Bells for?”

Two Speakers; one Heritage, one Church, then informed discussion!

Guests and Visitors welcome.

2.45pm Open Ringing Stradbroke All Saints (10) IP21 5HU

3.30pm Service

4.30pm Tea

5.30pm Meeting

Open Ringing at Stradbroke following meeting

Items for agenda will include changes in constitution and election of a new Guild chairman. Also there is a proposed change of election of LHM's that nominees will be vetoed by GMC.

12. **Guild Dinner** MS reported that arrangements are in place.

13. **Rod Pipe Commemoration weekend**

The Suffolk Guild has been invited to a Commemoration weekend held on 12th October in Birmingham as he was a former Suffolk Ringer.

14. **Matters Arising** No matters arising

15. **Correspondence** PJG has received a letter from GWP apologising for the fact that his book has not reached the press yet as he has been very unwell.

A Thank You letter has been received from Clopton for the grant that the Guild gave them; there will be an invitation to the service of celebration when work has been completed.

MS reported that ARCH letter sent out by Central Council, encouraging ringers to be involved in watching out for bell thefts.

Sudbury All Saints has sent a thank you letter for work done on the bells

The organisers of Weston Country Fair have requested that the mini-ring be available on 28th July. JB will co-ordinate this.

16. **AOB** No other business

17. **Date of Next Meeting:** Sunday June 16th at 6pm