

Minutes of GMC Meeting 16th June 2013 Stowupland

Present: Alan Stanley (Chair), Jed Flatters (Ringing Master), Mandy Shedden (Secretary) Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Jonathan Stevens (Technical Advisor), Trevor Hughes, Marion Turner, Maurice Rose, Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh), Derek Rose (SW Sudbury) Robert Scase

Apologies received from: Brian Hale, Peter Harper, Sally Munnings, Mary Garner, Kate Eagle, David Steed, Jason Busby, Julie Rapior, Revd. Brian Redgers, Linda Goodban, David Smith

1. Welcome

Alan Stanley welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their support in his election as the new Chairman.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2013 circulated previously, were agreed subject to the correction of a duplication of data at item 10.

GS asked that the format for publishing minutes on website be clarified. MS writes minutes, sends to chairman for approval, then circulated to GMC before release to the website, but February's minutes had not been circulated to the GMC first due to technical problems. These will be addressed and a copy of those minutes will now be published on the website.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

No other matters arose from the minutes

4. Belfry Advisory Committee Report

Our most recent meeting was at Bredfield on the 14th May, when those present updated each other on what was happening around the Guild's towers. Items of particular note were;

Redgrave. Discussion continues with the Churches Conservation Trust who have commissioned Whitechapel to advise the on the CCT scheme to put the extra three bell in a new frame above the existing one, this having been already discounted by Brian Morton (Structural Engineer).

Cotton. The ringing has been curtailed due to rot on the beam ends.

Your Technical Advisor has been kept busy. He visited Copdock to review the Guild classification of condition following recent tower work, that condition is now listed as "fair going order". He went to Hopton and has designed the next stage of the sound management system, Ringsfield, Chevington and Falkenham for inspection and reports, Brome and Palgrave to investigate sticky clappers, Horringer with Ruth Suggett and Alan Moulton to discuss their restoration project with their restoration team, Norman Tower to inspect the work subject of a guild Grant and Elmsett for the same. Tomorrow evening he will be inspecting the repaired tenor at Woolpit and discussing their sound management.

He also attended the Church Building Council Bell Adviser' Conference, this year in York, where subjects covered were; challenging projects in Yorkshire, The DAC and the Secretary's role, Ringing Heritage, The Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic Plan 2013 – 2018 (Charlotte Dodgeon Programme Manager), current church building issues, cast in crown staples and attitudes to their

removal, and clocks and the Bell Advisor. There were 31 Bell Advisors present, the speakers and Richard Stevens who attended as an observer.

At Thurston the Architect is planning to introduce steel supports to the frame whilst the grouting is re-done, Alan Moults advice was not to waste time on that but just to re-do one pocket at a time.

The next BAC meeting is at Redgrave on 17 September.

JF thanked JJS for all his hard work and enthusiasm with which he approaches his role as technical advisor.

5. Applications for grants

Grant Applications to GMC 16 June 2013

Clopton. Whitechapel have found cracks in the crown of the fourth which has added £2,635.20 to the cost of this project. This sum is the cost of having the bell welded and transport to and from Soundweld.

Our grant conditions state that should circumstances change e.g. a bell be found to be cracked the parish can ask for an additional grant, which they have done.

An offer of £500 was agreed by the GMC

Thelnetham. Whites have quoted £1,776 to supply and fit the new pulley blocks to this tower, which cost includes two men for the day and the pulley blocks. The parish, via Chris Davies has asked for help. Although the intention is to do the work entirely on a voluntary basis using pulleys supplied by Whitechapel, it is the Guild's Policy to base a grant on the gross figure from a bell-hanger, so as not to penalise those willing to roll their sleeves up. The estimated cost of materials will be £185.00.

An offer of £185 was agreed

Elmsett. Crawford Allen has found another bell, intended to complete this ring of five. The cost of this with fittings and installation is £7000.80. This grant request came in after the BAC meeting, so they have met via Email, the consensus being to offer £1,000.

An offer of £1,000 was agreed by the Meeting and MS will send an offer letter.

6. R&T Committee

JF reported that the new group had met at Ipswich and the R&T leaflets were going to be updated e.g. Why be a ringer? JS suggested an update of the Towards better striking leaflet.

6b. Ringing Master's Report

Things have been quite a lot busier for me since the last GMC it being the time of year for the AGM and the Guild and District striking competitions and Guild Peal week.

I was re-elected to serve at least another year as master, thanks to all for their support, I know not everybody likes what and how I do things but at times getting a group of ringers together seems to be like herding cats. I look forward to working with Alan, Gordon, Mandy and Jonathan for the benefit of our Guild and its' members.

The peal week was not quite the success that I would have hoped for as despite a number of attempts there were many losses, I lost 3 to varying causes and 3 other losses were reported. In all 8 peals were scored. Next year's will again be during the February half term so please make an effort to do something to fly the flag for the Suffolk Guild of Ringers.

I attended the NW outing to the Lowestoft area ably arranged by Winston then got down to the NE Striking Competition at Rumburgh where a good turnout did justice to the bells with pretty good ringing throughout.

At the Guild 6 Bell Competition we had 14 teams entered a maximum for any judges to cope with. Peter Hayward did us justice though unfortunately his wife could not be with us due to family problems. He was kept well supplied with tea and shaken when we thought he was dozing off. Worthy champions on the day in the method competition were The Wolery with Debenham B winning the call change competition

In the 8 bell competition at Gislingham 7 teams fought it out with the NE team holding on to the trophy after SMLT narrowly lost out due to a careless method mistake that cost them dear, a Suffolk youth team entered for the practice, I wish them well in the national competition at York.

I would ask the GMC to consider splitting this into two separate events run on different weekends as it is really too much to run them in one day and most unkind on any judge.

A problem of organising striking competitions. is that sooner or later you get asked to judge one for another guild, this happened when Rowan and I were asked to go up to the NDA, we judged 14 teams in their 6 bell competition and there was no riot when we placed the bands.

Following on from the module 2 change ringing course I organised a "Bring your Recruit" day at Helmingham where using the simulator, we put all of the learners through an intensive days ringing. Thanks are due to Trevor Hughes who acted as super mentor and helped both learners and tutors alike. Further sessions like this will be run on simulators when I can find diary space.

Although not organised by me a further Module 1 course was held at Mildenhall bringing the far NW in to the training scheme, those that I have spoken to say how good it was. If other districts could consider this we can get the training spread to the outermost towers of our guild.

In pursuit of the ITTS message and learner recruitment I am following up Richy's Radio Suffolk interview with Mark Murphy recording a training session at the Norman Tower with some of our learners, a little bit staged but I hope it goes down well.

Finally, we attended the Ridgman Trophy held at Surfleet on Sat. 15th ringing Cambridge Surprise Royal, 8 teams were entered, and we were placed sixth out of eight.

In reply to JF's request that the committee look at holding the two striking competitions on different days, the consensus was that it would advisable to discuss this at October's meeting when hopefully a better attendance of the GMC members will give a more balanced view.

7. Treasurers Report

General Fund

Subscription income is in line with budget and some of the stock of rope purchased last year has been sold. There has been no unusual expenditure.

Restoration Fund

The Guild Dinner was well attended and made a profit of approximately £250.

The sum now available for allocation to new projects stands at £56,000. The Norman Tower installation has been signed off and the outstanding grant of £4,000 will be paid when I receive the relevant invoices. The amount reserved for grants allocated to projects still in progress stands at £8,200.

TH raised the point that there is a bigger sum of unallocated money in the restoration account than might be viewed appropriate by the charities commission. GS felt that with the possibility of more grant applications arising in the near future that this may well be called upon, but he was keeping an eye on the amount. The larger sum of money available was one of the factors taken into account when the level of subscriptions was set for the coming year as unchanged.

8. AGM Feedback

JS reported that the fringe meeting attracted 30-40 people. The speakers Tamsin Cooke and Rev Basil Jenkins were very good and Tamsin had since given the same speech to another group of people.

Next year Neil Thomas will talk on the history of handbells and the use of them to teach tower bell ringing.

RS mentioned that some were unhappy about the lack of opportunity for ringing. TH acknowledged that it is difficult to arrange ringing to suit everyone.

9. Ratification of NRLM's

Christine Knight is aware that some new NRLM's had been elected prior to peal attempts but she is awaiting payment

10. Report Editor Vacancy

AS reported that David Salter had given his resignation as report editor very soon after the AGM, he asked the committee to think of anyone he could approach to fill this urgent vacancy as soon as possible.

11. Young Ringers Striking Competition

GS reported that a financial contribution towards the costs of the Young Ringers has been made available from the Pipe Trust fund. JF added that George Salter has been holding practices for the team and they hope to do well on July 2nd.

12. Odd Struckness Meter

The committee approved payment of £260 from the general fund for the purchase of an odd struckness meter which will remain in the care of the TA.

13. Mini Ring at Henham

The NE District will be organising the use of the Vestey Ring at Henham steam rally on 21st/22nd July. The Guild hopes to secure sufficient entry passes such that the cost to guild members manning the ring will be half the normal entry price.

14. Learning to Ring Leaflet

MS has updated the Learning to Ring leaflet which is given out at shows or events where the mini ring is on show. Quotes will be obtained from a printer to produce larger quantities but in the meantime MS will print off 100 copies for use in the interim.

15. Guild Magazine

SF asked for copy for the summer edition to be sent to her as soon as possible.

16. Youth Ringing Master

The possibility of creating the post of a Youth Ringing Master was discussed . George Salter had expressed a willingness to be appointed but it was felt that there was no need to create a post at this time. George is filling much of the role. The post of Youth Ringing Master will be reviewed at a future date.

17. Update of Constitution and Rules

It has been identified that there is a need to look at any rules that have become unnecessary since the introduction of the website, because unnecessary expense has been incurred advertising events in the Ringing World which are not applicable now outside of the Guild (e.g. Striking competition). A sub - committee could review the rules to ensure that this does not keep happening but it was felt that with so few attendees at this meeting, the matter should be carried forward to the October GMC meeting.

18. Review of Grant Conditions

JS and Philip Gorrod with the advice of a solicitor have drawn up a revised draft of the Grant Conditions for restoration projects. The draft will be circulated to GMC members and JS would like any feedback on it to be with him by the end of the month. MS will circulate an email to this effect.

19. Guild Social

DR reported that the South West District had some ideas about what form the Guild Social will take in 2014 but nothing concrete has been planned yet.

20. Correspondence

No Correspondence has been received.

21. AOB

Brian Whiting has asked for a suggested minimum donation from borrowers outside of the Suffolk Guild for the loan of the mini ring be agreed. The committee felt that £40 was appropriate.

AS asked that in future the agenda be circulated 14 days before a meeting so that members could come back with an informed view and any suggestions for inclusion. It is intended that future agendas will carry more detail so to enable better preparation by all. MS will action this.

Date of Next Meeting October 19th 10am