

Minutes of the Suffolk Guild AGM held on Saturday 11th April 2015 at Felixstowe

1. Welcome

The Chairman Alan Stanley (AS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks to Rev'd Rachel Cornish for conducting the service and Jeremy Prentice the organist. He also thanked Jane Harper, Anne Buswell and all who contributed to the tea. Jenny and Richard Holland for their help with arrangements for the church and finally to George Pipe and all who were involved in making sure that his exhibition was displayed in the church hall. It was a welcome contribution to AGM day.

88 members signed the attendance book and apologies were received from 35 members

2. Obituaries

The meeting then stood in silence to remember all who had died during the year. The names of the departed were read out from the Annual Report and Michael Warren who died recently was also included in the mark of respect.

3. Election of New Members

The following people were proposed and elected as members at the meeting.

Name	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded
Ben Eaden	Woolpit	P.Ebsworth	Jed Flatters
Linda Rochester	Stowmarket	W.Girling	C.Girling
Ruth Eyles	Thurston	N.Dodge	C.Veal
Carmen Wright	Stowmarket	W.Girling	C.Girling
Margaret Lillyman	Lavenham	R Brewster	D.Howe
Maureen Gardiner	Stowmarket	W.Girling	C.Girling

4. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were printed in the Annual Report and were available on the Guild Website and were accepted as a true record with one correction to Veronica Downing's name.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

6. Officer Reports

Lesley Steed Proposed and Derek Rose seconded that the reports that appeared in the annual Report be accepted by the meeting. AS stated that the reports reflected only a small proportion of the work done by officers involved.

Annual Report Editor's report – George Reynolds thanked Christine Knight, Brian Whiting and David Salter and for their help in compiling the peal data.

Phillip Gorrod then addressed the meeting in response to the Report Editor. He expressed concern at the lack of accuracy in the report and the hope that this should be addressed in time for the publication of the next report.

Magazine Editor's Report- Sue Freeman thanked everyone for their contribution to the magazine this year but pointed out that there had been instances where news had been submitted to the Ringing World from members who had not also sent the information to her and

asked that in future newsworthy items should be included in the magazine as well as the Ringing World.

John Girt questioned whether the magazine was fulfilling members' needs, how many were produced, where they go and if content should be widened to encompass other potential recipients. He felt that we should widen our outlook and circulation of the magazine. AS asked Sue Freeman to add this to the agenda for a future GMC meeting.

Handbell and Mini Ring Trustee Report

Brian Whiting reported that the Guild owns 4 sets of handbells and 3 of them were out on loan to Guild members, he understands them to be in good order.

The Vestey Ring had 12 outings last year 50% of these were within county, the rest were to Essex Hertfordshire and Norfolk Associations and events. This year it was booked out for 5 events already.

Mary Dunbavin suggested that the donations offered for the loan of the handbells be increased to a higher level that they are at present.

Trustees Report

John Girt proposed and Chris Garner seconded that the trustees report that appeared in the Guild Report be accepted. The meeting agreed.

Central Council Report

Peter Harper had submitted a report to the GMC in June after the CC Meeting held in May last year and this was now available on the website.

Richard Knight asked if in future all verbal reports could be given to the secretary and then circulated before the meeting in order to save time.

Subscriptions and Peal Fees for 2016

The GMC had agreed that for the next year subscriptions and peal fees should remain unchanged but a table survey was conducted to ascertain the feelings of members as to whether or not the reduced subscription fees should be abolished.

Mike Pilgrim commented that if any changes were made then current recipients of free or reduced subs should not be adversely affected. Veronica Downing asked if an increase in subs could be made without altering the concessionary rates.

Election of Officers for 2015/16.

Two nominations for the post of Report Editor necessitated a paper ballot to be held with Gordon Slack and Winston Girling acting as tellers. Before this was carried out, Michelle Williams was given the opportunity to speak to the meeting about her intentions if she was elected.

"For me, standing as Report Editor is about wanting to contribute on a Guild level, not just a District level and about fostering a positive and supportive approach to all contributors to the Guild Report. From my own experience, I know that submitting content on behalf of a District can be unnecessarily challenging. It is my intention to cut the red tape and bureaucracy where I can.

My aim is to concentrate on making the Guild Report an informative and an accurate document that values its contributors as part of a collective group, rather than an academic exercise where you feel tested.

From a personal level, I am happy to offer endless hours proof reading, have attention to detail along with the technical know-how to produce your report.

This is your document and your contributions matter. It's a representation of us as a Guild and as a team. Ringing is about teamwork, so let's practice this outside the ringing chamber as well as within. Thank you."

The paper ballot was conducted and the following people were elected into office.

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Alan Stanley	George Pipe	Kay Lucas
Ringling Master	Jed Flatters	Brian Whiting	Joan Garrett
Secretary	Carl Melville	Winston Girling	Alan Stanley
Treasurer	Owen Claxton	Ralph Earey	Gordon Slack
Chair BAC & Technical Advisor	Winston Girling	Alan Stanley	Carol Girling
PRO	Richard Munnings	Ruth Munnings	Mary Garner
Report Editor	Michelle Williams	Philip Gorrod	Mandy Shedden
Magazine Editor	Sue Freeman	Rolie Whiting	Richard Gates
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Maurice Rose	George Reynolds
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Brian Whiting	Maurice Rose
Handbell/Mini Ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Gordon Slack	Janet Sheldrake
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Mike Whitby	Bill Lloyd

Election of Trustees

Veronica Downing proposed and David Salter seconded that the elected Chairman, new Secretary and new Treasurer should be elected as trustees of the Guild, the meeting agreed.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Chairman proposed that Larking Gowen should remain as the Independent Examiner

50 Year Membership Awards.

Peter Harper initiated this new award in line with what many other associations and guilds have done. He was assisted in his research by Neal Dodge and David Salter. It is a way of recognising the long standing commitment of the rank and file members. Eligible members were identified up until the end of 2014 but Peter would like to hear if anyone has been inadvertently missed.

The following members were awarded a certificate commemorating their 50 years of membership and those at the meeting collected them in person.

George Pipe, Daphne Pegg, Richard Pegg, Eddie Hynard, Walter Perry, Margaret Jarvis, Donald Mills, Kenneth Brown, Margot Blythe, Diana Pipe, Muriel Page, Alice Lester, Winston Girling, Hubert Mitson, John Girt, Maurice Rose, Roger Whittell, Trevor Hughes, Marian Saker, Shirley Girt, Alan Munnings, Lawrence Pizzey, Neville Whittell, Gordon Adams, Adrian Knights, Winnie Lockwood, Ruth Last.

BAC Role and Maintenance Sessions

Winston Girling reported:

"At a recent Guild Management Meeting the problems of regular maintenance at towers where there is no local band or any ringers to look after bells was raised. It was pointed out that in some cases the bells were pealed/quarter-pealed occasionally without any proper checks beforehand.

The Belfry Advisory Committee then discussed this problem and the following actions were suggested by the Committee:

- 1) *Firstly, it should be incumbent upon the organisers of any peals/quarters to ensure that the bells they are about to ring are properly maintained. If they are not sure about this then ask, and if necessary speak to somebody on the BAC about it. In practice, most of the peals & quarters are organised by Suffolk ringers who are responsible about it, but there can be a tendency to obtain permission to ring from somebody at the church and to assume this means all is in order.*
- 2) *From a BAC perspective, to arrange hands on maintenance instruction and to encourage as many people as possible who are willing to look after bells but need some instruction to come along.*
- 3) *The first of these will be in the South West District at Long Melford at 10.0am on Saturday, 4th July. Light refreshments will be available and all are welcome. The day is advertised on the Guild website and there will be similar events in other Districts in due course."*

The Way Forward

Ralph Earey then addressed the meeting as to the way forward:-

"When I re-joined the GMC in 2013 I asked the question whether we as a Guild had the ability to financially support activities that were not directly related to the refurbishment of bells and fittings. My concern was that whilst the Guild had a considerable amount in the restoration fund, I could see that if we're not careful we could end-up with lots of restored rings of bells and no-one to ring them. Thanks to those 65 people who stayed behind after the 2014 AGM to take part in the discussion forum entitled 'The future of ringing' many ideas were raised and passed onto the GMC (ranging from training days, ITTS, ringing schools, through to recruitment and encouragement of young ringers).

I am pleased to say that, yes, the Guild is able to financially support such activities and it's now for all of us, the Guild, to determine what we are going to do ensure the future of ringing. I will hand-over to Jed who has a further update".

RWNYC

George Salter reported that the young ringers were as yet undecided about entering the Ringing World National Youth Contest because they had lost a lot of eligible contestants. He went on to say that he and Amanda Richmond had organised a practice recently at Bury St Edmunds and further meetings have been arranged with a view to having a regular slot for young ringer's practices

Guild Social

This will be held in the NE District and there will be events for all ages. Date is 26th September and possible activities include open towers and a brewery and distillery tour.

St Edmunds Clapper Competition.

The following fundraisers organised events in aid of the BRF

Sproughton Tower raised £200

Jed Flatters and Rowan Wilson cycled around the Diocesan boundaries and raised £329 in sponsorship.

Ofton had their Annual barbecue and raised £400 so for another year were the winners of the St Edmunds Clapper trophy.

Any Other Business

GWP gave thanks to the members for allowing him to share his vast collection of Ringing memorabilia and for all the help he received enabling him to do so. It is his intention to create an inventory of all the material and record its'provenance.

Winston Girling reported that Mary Allum had suffered a broken leg in a fall and asked members to sign a Get Well card that was being circulated.

Ralph Earey thanked everyone for completing the Subscription survey and for appearing in the photograph that was taken after the tea. He asked that people could check their names had been recorded correctly alongside their appearance in the photograph.

Ruth Suggett announced that 2nd May marked the tercentenary of the first recorded peal in Norwich and on Bank Holiday Monday various events were being held in Norwich in aid of the Mancroft Appeal, she asked members for their support.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date of Next Meeting Saturday 2nd April 2016 in the NE District