

**The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Saturday 22nd April 2017, Hungate Hall, Hungate, Beccles**

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Thanks and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

93 people signed the attendance book; 37 people gave their apologies.

The Chairman thanked everyone who had made the AGM day successful, including Philip Gorrod, Mike Cowling, Kate Gill and those who arranged the flowers on the tables and the contributors to the tea and the catering team, too numerous to mention. Thanks were also extended to Ambrim Williams for organizing the raffle, Chris Garner for putting out the many communications relating to the AGM and to the ringers who were stationed at each church throughout the day. Thanks were extended to the Revd Rich Henderson for conducting the Service in St Michael's Church, to Jason Busby for playing the Organ and to Faith Darch, the Beccles Tower Captain.

2. Absent Friends

The Chairman invited everyone to stand in silence as we remembered all those listed in the Annual Report who had died in the past year, also in remembrance of Frank Bloomfield.

3. Election of New Members

Peter Twiss, Metfield; Michael Bunting, Wetherden; Sonya Smart, Bardwell; Peter Stock, Offton; Jill Ashton, Yoxford; Julian Lock, Yoxford; John McMinn, Yoxford.

All agreed.

4. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Annual Report page 76

Ed Rolph proposed and Neal Dodge seconded that the minutes of the last AGM be signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.x.i The content of the Annual Report was discussed at length at the last meeting and at subsequent GMC meeting and had been produced accordingly.

6. Trustees' Report

Annual Report page 9

7. Officers Reports

I. Ringing Master

Annual Report page 13

Philip Gorrod asked the Ringing Master about a Peal Week. The Ringing Master said that he hoped it would be in November.

II. Secretary

Annual Report page 15

III. Guild Accounts

Annual Report page 18

Philip Gorrod proposed and Carl Melville seconded that the Guild Accounts be adopted.

IV. Belfry Advisory Committee

Annual Report page 11

V. Public Relations Officer

Annual Report page 16

VI. Magazine Editor

Annual Report page 17

VII. Librarian

Annual Report page 17

VIII. Peal Secretary

Annual Report page 50

David Salter asked about paying fees electronically. The Peal Secretary replied that this is possible but full referencing of the peal should be sent

to the Treasurer as she doesn't have sight of the daily Guild Account. The Treasurer urged online payments to be referenced very clearly. The Treasurer the Peal Secretary will review with a view to issuing any necessary or desirable clarification.

IX. Guild Handbells and Mini Ring Trustee Annual Report page 16

X. Webmaster Annual Report page 16

Mark Ogden asked if the Annual Report could go on the website. It was agreed at a recent GMC that the Report would be sent out to members electronically. The GMC will review this.

XI. Membership Secretary Annual Report page 15

All reports were adopted by the meeting.

8. Annual Report Editor's Report

John Girt congratulated the editor on reinstating the list of tower correspondent's addresses.

9. Central Council Report

The CC report for 2016 is on the website for viewing.

10. Subscriptions and Peal Fees for 2016

The Chairman reported that this has been discussed at the GMC and it was pleased to report that they would remain unchanged for another year.

11. Election of Officers for 2017/2018

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Alan Stanley	Kay Lucas	George Pipe
Ringling Master	Tom Scase	Tracey Scase	John Taylor
Secretary	Carl Melville	Tom Scase	Owen Claxton
Treasurer	Owen Claxton	Brian Whiting	Ralph Eary
Chair of the BAC	Winston Girling	Tom Scase	Carl Melville
Technical Advisor	Winston Girling	Tom Scase	Carl Melville
PRO	Neal Dodge	Katharine Salter	Lesley Steed
Report Editor	Michelle Rolph	Philip Gorrod	Carl Melville
Magazine Editor	Sue Freeman	Penny Rose	Derek Rose
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Jed Flatters	Carl Melville
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Maurice Rose	Brian Whiting
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Carl Melville	Gordon Slack
Mini ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Carl Melville	Gordon Slack
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Richard Munnings	Mike Cowling

The Chairman thanked all Guild Officers for their unseen but significant contribution during the year and appreciation was shown by all at the meeting.

12. Election of Central Council Reps

The Guild has one two-year termed vacancy for CC rep, there being no nominations from the floor, it remains vacant.

13. Election of Trustees

Michelle Rolph proposed and Derek Rose seconded that the trustees remain the same: Alan Stanley, Owen Claxton and Carl Melville. All agreed.

14. Rule Change (details previously notified)

The Treasurer and Treasurer acted as tellers 102 members were counted as being eligible to vote.

14.1 Insert at the end of Rule D 7 the sentence: *At any AGM or SGM a quorum shall be 5% of members eligible to vote.*

A discussion was held about the rule change. Members questions if we even had 5% of membership here today? Trevor Hughes, stated that he thought 5% was too small a percentage of membership Questions were raised about the rule being vague in its wording.

Alan Stanley Proposed the change and Carl Melville seconded.

In favour 74. Against 14. Abstentions indicated 6

Amendment passed.

14.2 To amend Rule J 9.1 to: *Nine members of the committee shall constitute a quorum*

Alan Stanley Proposed the change and Carl Melville seconded.

In favour 81. Against 0. Abstentions indicated 3.

Amendment passed.

14.3 Replace rule H 5, with the two new paragraphs H 5.1 and H 5.2 as below.

5.1 Any person resident outside the Diocese who wishes to be associated with the Guild may be elected a Non-Resident Life Member. A one-off subscription is payable by such members.

5.2 Any Non-Resident Life Membership ceases if the member takes up residency within the Diocese. The person may become a Ringing Member, without re-election, provided that the person was previously elected as a Ringing Member. The person must then pay the appropriate subscription.

A discussion was held about the rule change. David Salter commented that the rule does not reflect what we want to happen in practice. It was noted that any person who rings in Suffolk should be eligible to be a Guild member. A discussion about a particular case was held and the meeting felt this was against Guild Rules. It was noted that the rules required residency.

Jed Flatters said that NRLMs are elected to ring peals and should be good enough to be members without election. Philip Gorrod said that this is what we wanted to combat. Katharine Salter said that the value in electing ringing members was that sometimes over a long period of time their standard of ringing changes, we must be mindful of that. She commented on the wording of the rule.

The Chairman refused any counter amendments to the proposal, after having informed members that these should be with the Secretary by 31st March. none were received.

A discussion was held about the wording and nature of the rule change.

Alan Stanley proposed and Neal Dodge seconded.

In favour 58. Against 17. Abstentions indicated 9.

Amendment passed.

15. 50 Year Membership Awards

Certificates were presented to Stephen Christian, Ruth Young and James Wightman with the Chairmans congratulations and support of the meeting.

16. St Edmund Clapper Competition

Last year £690 was raised.

This year, £190 was raised with £165 of that raised by Sproughton. So the 2017 winner is Sproughton. Ralph Earey accepted the trophy on their behalf.

17. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting appointed Ian Webster on behalf of Larkin Gowen.
Owen Claxton proposed and all were in favour.

18. Guild Social Event 2017

This year the SE district would host the social with a Barn Dance at Sproughton on Saturday 16th September. Tickets can be purchased from Ralph.

19. Any Other Business

Jenny Scase Wednesday 12th July, Veteran's Day at Debenham. More details to follow.

Neal Dodge Neal has a number of 'Learning to Ring' leaflets which should be used around the county.

Suffolk Day, 21st June, BBC Radio Suffolk – any ringing events sent to Neal.

Heritage Open Days, 7th-10th September – towers can be open, Details to follow.

Carl Melville Guild Dinner – Saturday 3rd March 2018, Elmswell, to celebrate the Guild 95th Anniversary. Details to follow shortly.

20. Date of the next AGM: Saturday 7th April 2018 in the NW District

The meeting closed at 7.33pm