



The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Saturday 7th April 2018, St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Minutes

1. Welcome, Thanks and Apologies

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then thanked Canon Philip Banks for the welcome to the cathedral and for the service. He extended thanks to Rowan Wilson, David Steed, Ruth Young and Neal Dodge who organized the ringing and day's proceedings. Thanks were given to the Norman Tower ringers and to the NW district for providing support at the open towers and to Philip Gorrod for the PA system. Thanks were shown to the Cathedral catering staff for the provision of food and tea.

The chairman described two trophies that the Guild has earned from the High Sheriffs Award, to acknowledge those contributing to the heritage to the county of Suffolk. Alan Stanley highlighted the fact that Neal Dodge had done all the hard work on the application and he (Neal) was thanked by the meeting. As well as trophies a cheque for £1000 was given.

The chairman announced changes and errors to the Agenda that was sent out earlier in the month.

Thanks to Chris Garner for advertising everything on the website so efficiently.

2. Absent Friends

The meeting stood for those mentioned in the Annual Report and also:
Don Mills of Bures.

3. Election of New Members

Mrs Joanna Butlin, Harkstead. Prop Janet Looser, Sec Ali Looser. Mr Alistair Ian McArthur, Woolpit. Prop Pam Ebsworth, Sec Chris McArthur. After ascertaining that the required ringing standard had been attained they were duly elected.

4. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

Minutes accepted as a true record. Proposed Lesley Steed, Seconded Diana Pipe. Meeting agreed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

7.8 – Peal fees – review outstanding.

7.10 – The Annual Report was not circulated electronically as promised and the Chairman stated that this is under consideration by the GMC.

6. Trustees' Report (Annual Report, page 9)

7. Officer Reports

Ringing Master Annual Report page 13

Secretary Annual Report page 15

Guild Accounts Annual Report page 18

Katherine Salter asked why the Grant for St Margaret's Ipswich was not mentioned in the account this year.

OC responded that they won't appear yet but the money has been granted.

Belfry Advisory Committee Annual Report page 11

Public Relations Officer Annual Report page 16

Veronica Downing wanted to show thanks to Neal Dodge who is on Central Council Publications working party.

Magazine Editor Annual Report page 17

Librarian Annual Report page 17

John Girt asked about if the decision about keeping the Ringing World electronically had been made. AA replied that no decision had been made yet.

Peal secretary Annual Report page 50

Guild Handbells & Mini-ring Trustee Annual Report page 14

David Salter asked why there were very few donations, yet insurance was so high.

BW replied that the bells were not utilized to their full usage.

The GMC will consider whether or not the insurance premium is suitable for us or not. David Salter asked if we needed all the sets of bells anyway. GMC will review the use of handbells.

David Salter asked where the precise history of the Pearson bells was.

Webmaster Annual Report page 17

The chairman thanked Chris Garner for his hard work. Sally Munnings commented that ours was the best website out of other ringing sites she had looked at.

Julian Colman asked if the Data Protection changes in the law (GDPR) had been updated within the Guild particularly the website. Mary Garner said that she had reviewed this and that the membership forms acted as consent and that emails were blind copied to members and that data was under password protection.

Proposer David Salter, Sec John Girt. The meeting adopted these reports.

8. Annual Report, Editor’s Report

Michelle Rolph gave a short report to thank everyone who contributed to the report this year. The meeting showed their appreciation to Michelle Rolph for doing a great job on the report.

9. Central Council Report

A report on the CC 2017 Annual meeting is in minutes of the June 2017 GMC Meeting and can be found on the Guild website

Veronica Downing gave a report and said that it is really important that Suffolk knows of their place on the Central Council national board. The committee members will become working parties, which Neal Dodge is part of. She asked the meeting’s full support for Neal Dodge.

10. Subscriptions and Peal Fees for 2019

These remain unchanged

11. Election of Officers for 2018/2019

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rowan Wilson	Alan Stanley	Philip Gorrod
Ringling Master	Tom Scase	Owen Claxton	Tracey Scase
Secretary	Carl Melville	Michelle Rolph	Alan Stanley
Treasurer	Stephen Cheek	Owen Claxton	Tom Scase
Chair of the BAC	Winston Girling	Carl Melville	Alan Stanley
Technical Advisor	Winston Girling	Tom Scase	Carl Melville
PRO	Neal Dodge	Mary Garner	Suzanne Stevens
Report Editor	Michelle Rolph	Philip Gorrod	Ed Rolph
Magazine Editor	VACANT		
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Katherine Salter	Neal Dodge
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Brian Whiting	Maurice Rose
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Janet Sheldrake	David Stanford
Mini ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Gordon Slack	Janet Sheldrake
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Tom Scase	Mike Whitby

John Girt said that this is the first time that the Guild has elected a female Chairman and that we should fully support her.

Philip Gorrod thanked the chairman for all his work over the past five years and that he knew what a hard job it was. The meeting gave their appreciation to the chairman.

The chairman thanked OC for his marvellous accounting skills in being treasurer, for preparing reports and guiding us financially over the past few years.

Neal Dodge has said that this will be his last year as PRO. The meeting was encouraged to look for a replacement.

The Vacancy of Newsletter Editor will be discussed at GMC.

The chairman paid tribute to those who take on roles and who put so much time into achieving the things they do. The meeting gave their appreciation to those in post.

The Membership Secretary and Safeguarding Officer, Mary Garner, was thanked by the meeting.

12. Election of Central Council Reps

1 Vacancy one year term to align with others. No nominations.

13. Election of Trustees

Alan Stanley and Owen Stanley are stepping down.

Rowan Wilson and Stephen Cheek were nominated, being elected to Chairman and Treasurer.

Proposed by Jed Flatters, Seconded by Maurice Rose. Duly elected with none opposing.

14. 50 Year Membership Awards

Brian Whiting received a 50 year membership award and the meeting showed their appreciation and thanks.

15. St Edmunds' Clapper Competition

OC gave the results of the St Edmunds' Clapper Competition.

There were two entries raising £215.00 in total.

Donations were received by the Millbeck Ring and from the Burns Night social.

Sproughton won by raising £165.00

16. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ian Webster, Larking Gowen, Proposed by Owen Claxton, Seconded by Maurice Rose. The meeting agreed.

17. Feedback from Guild Social Event 2017

85 people came along to the Barn Dance last year and it raised a profit of about £209.00. Ralph Earey gave the report.

18. Any Other Business

i. Freda Smith – Jonathan Williamson reported:- whilst not a long serving member of the Guild, Freda Smith of St. Matthew's Ipswich will turn 100 years old on 27th June this year. I think she was first elected along with the rest of the band we taught there in 1992 though she had been a ringer before that time. She was one of only two volunteers who could already ring when we started at St. Matthew's with over 20 volunteers and her support was invaluable. She is still a member of St. Matthew's and still going strong, though no longer ringing. She is now supporting the revitalized efforts at St. Matthew's to keep the bells going. So well done Freda Smith.

ii. Annual Report: Julian Colman asked if we needed a hard copy of the Annual

Report or Newsletter given that many reports are all online. He said that the Guild could save money for the Restoration Fund.

Richard Knight said that the document was a historical document but that most people were now online.

Sally Munnings asked if it was needed several copies per family. She said the Peterborough Guild purchased a report for their own tower or personal use.

It was noted that the newsletter was the Guild Magazine and was a document for places beyond the Guild members. Shirley Girt said that the magazine was great for those no longer able to ring and was a link from one generation to another.

Katherine Salter said that the amount of money we would save was negligible when thinking about PR and front of house productions.

Jed Flatters asked if we could have a show of hands to get a general feeling of who wanted what. A straw poll was taken. Nearly 80% of those present felt it necessary to keep a hard copy.

iii. Armistice Ringing: Jonathan Williamson asked the meeting to consider Guild activities about this event.

Tom Scase, Ringing Master, wanted us to ring at as many towers as possible on 11th November.

Neal Dodge had requested that tower names were sent to him ASAP for PR.

John Girt said that Suffolk was very bad at registering towers.

The chairman encouraged everyone to be active.

iv. Veterans Day: Jenny Scase said that this was on Wed 11th July, 2pm at Debenham.

v. Safeguarding: Mary Garner said that information was sent round to everyone on the Guild lists, and this information was produced in line with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich policy.

The policy holds true and that training should be completed.

Brian Whiting asked how the system was monitored. MG said that PSO of each parish should keep a list of relevant documents and details.

vi. CCCR: David Stanford asked what views the CCCR reps would be taking to the next meeting. The chairman stated that the reps were not directed by the GMC but where important votes were concerned the GMC might state their position as had been the case with the CRAG report. Veronica Downing said that the changes at CCCR are going ahead as of votes made last year.

19. Date of the next AGM: Saturday 27th April, 2019, in the SE District

Simon Rudd, chairman of the Mancroft Appeal 300 project, was welcomed to speak following the meeting. He spoke about the facilities available and provided a number of leaflets.

