

Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting at Blythburgh

Saturday 14th November 2015

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed 28 members to the meeting and received apologies from Naomi and Tim Shaw, Veronica and Graham Downing, Nick Evans, Sal Jenkinson, Pam and Ian Harris.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of discussions, proposed by Suzanne Stevens and seconded by Ambrin Williams. The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted that the lack of numbers to make the Guild Social viable had already been discussed at GMC. They will have more input as to what the Social will look like in the future and we wait to see what is offered next year.

Although lacking in numbers, the tower fees collected that afternoon covered donations to the two towers and left a balance of £26 which had already been passed on to the Guild Treasurer.

4. Review of the Year (*Ringing Master*)

It has been a lacklustre year within the District. Events have not been particularly well attended, either within the District or within the Guild. It was especially disappointing to have to scale back activities for the Guild Social so drastically after much planning and organisation.

However, there have been a few practices that have stood out as being worthy of note; there were plenty of opportunities for development at the January District Practice, kindly hosted by Rumburgh and the rounds and call changes evening at Beccles in March saw a number of new people venture out and ring on 10 for the first time. Wenhaston hosted the striking competition with encouraging results on quite tricky bells in May.

The scaled back Guild Social in September included ringing at both Little Glemham and Great Glemham. For those that came along it was an ideal opportunity to experience the challenge of these towers!

To end the year, a practice aimed specifically at learners took place at Blythburgh. There were 20 in total including a good number of ringers who have only just recently learnt. I do wonder whether there is potential for continuing these practices into 2016 as there was a good deal of positive feedback.

As you know, I am standing down as District Ringing Master at the annual meeting and wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me along the way over the past two years. I took on the role reluctantly, but am glad I did so as I have learnt such a lot in a short space of time. Thank you again and good luck to my successor.

5. Election of New Members

Membership forms were received from the following, who were duly elected as members to the Suffolk Guild, North East District.

Mr Robin Loxton	Fressingfield	Prop. T Hughes	Sec. J Hughes
Dr Christina Geddes-Elderkin	Wissett	Prop. H Spink	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
Mr James Stephens	Huntingfield	Prop. H Spink	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
Mr Paul McCann	Fressingfield	Prop. T Hughes	Sec. J Hughes
Mrs Sonia Boggis	Wenhaston	Prop. M Williams	Sec. P Meredith
Mr James Boggis	Wenhaston	Prop. M Williams	Sec. P Meredith
Mr Mike Knoppen	Reydon	Prop. P Doy	Sec. M Williams

6. Election of District Officers

The following people were elected into roles as below:

Chairman	Ed Rolph	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. K Gill
Secretary	Michelle Williams	Prop. S Stevens	Sec. A Williams
Treasurer	Julie Rapior	Prop. T Hughes	Sec. P Meredith
Ringling Master	Philip Gorrod	Prop. T Hughes	Sec. S Stevens
Deputy Ringling Master	Jonathan Stevens	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. S Stevens
Magazine Correspondent	Ambrin Williams	Prop. S Stevens	Sec. K Gill
GMC Representatives	Philip Gorrod	Prop. H Spink	Sec. A Williams
	Ed Rolph	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
	Michelle Williams	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
	Ambrin Williams	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
	Jonathan Stevens	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. V Eagle-Bott
R&T Representatives	Philip Gorrod	Prop. M Williams	Sec. H Spink
	Hugh Spink	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. M Williams
Co-opted Committee Members	Richard Rapior	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. A Williams
	Trevor Hughes	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. N Rolph
	Kate Gill	Prop. P Gorrod	Sec. N Rolph

7. Reports

Belfy Advisory Committee

Jonathan reported to the group that he had prepared the bells at Gt Glemham and Little Glemham prior to the Guild Social, two new pulleys had been installed at Halesworth and Huntingfield were due to have a second set of rope guides installed.

Recruitment & Training

Jed Flatters was present to report that revised tower notices (in plain English) were now available on the Suffolk Guild website and encouraged people to download them and put on display in towers. Further guidance posters will be available shortly with photographs. The next R&T meeting is in two weeks' time.

8. Guild Membership (*Mary Garner*)

Those present welcomed Mary Garner to the meeting.

Mary briefly outlined that she had been appointed by GMC as Membership Secretary and had been tasked with updating home tower details, addresses of members, email contacts, gift aid declarations and date of birth for all members of the Guild. She further outlined that date of birth was required for budget forecasting purposes by the Guild Treasurer.

Individual letters would be distributed after the meeting for updating and return. Please could NE members return their information by the end of the year.

9. 2016 Events (*Ringling Master*)

Philip Gorrod brought attention to the planned Tower Representative Meetings details of which were on each table. He pressed strongly that at least one representative from each tower should attend to put forward their thoughts as to what the District could offer to better suit their needs, encourage attendance and strengthen the level of networking within the area.

Finalised venue details would be circulated via Guild email very shortly.

10. Any Other Business

Richard Rapor requested clarification as to format and location of District meetings. It was explained that the format had been decided at a previous committee meeting, however there will be an opportunity to further discuss and potentially change the format following the Tower Representative meetings in January.

Trevor and Julie Hughes requested that the contact details be checked for future versions of What's On and website information. Now that new committee members had been appointed, they would each check their areas to ensure correct.

The Chairman wished to thank Peggy Meredith for all her assistance in preparing the church for the meeting and for clearing away afterwards. It was very greatly appreciated.

The meeting closed and further ringing took place until 6.30pm.