



**Approved Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting held at Southwold  
6 pm Saturday 17 November 2018**

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chairman, Mike Cowling, (MC) welcomed 34 members to the meeting. He thanked the Rev Bill Mahood, NE District Chaplain, for an excellent service, which was short and appropriate, and thanked Tom Scase, Guild Ringing Master, for attending the ADM this year.

The Chairman received apologies from Tess Blower, Julia Brown, Hal Humphries, Sal Jenkinson, Chrissie Pickup, Fiona Shuttle and Rowan Wilson (Guild Chairman).

**2. Approval of the minutes of the previous ADM held on 11 November 2017**

MC reminded Members that the draft minutes of this meeting were posted many months ago on the Guild website and had been informally reviewed at the District Quarterly Meeting in February 2018. Kate Gill, Secretary, (KG) confirmed the alterations made at the District Meeting had been made to the draft minutes here today.

Suzanne Stevens proposed the minutes as a correct record, seconded by Sarah Plummer. The minutes were approved by Members present.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 11 November 2017**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Review of the year – District Ringing Master**

The Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod (PJG), referred to his written report, which had been tabled prior to the start of the meeting. There were no questions about the content of the report.

Suzanne Stevens expressed thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the Armistice weekend ringing, with an excellent turnout and coverage of towers.

**5. Election of New Members**

Membership application forms were received from the following:

Colin Aspland	Beccles	Proposed: Chrissie Pickup	Seconded: Kate Gill
Dr Kate Bungay	Beccles	Proposed: Chrissie Pickup	Seconded: Kate Gill
David Goldstone	Beccles	Proposed: Chrissie Pickup	Seconded: Kate Gill
Lucy Thurston	Beccles	Proposed: Chrissie Pickup	Seconded: Kate Gill

The Ringing Master confirmed that their ringing was of a sufficiently high standard.

Members unanimously approved their election. Their membership forms, with subscriptions to follow shortly, were passed to the Treasurer.

Michael Peters advised that there were two other ringers, Chris and Zoe Lister from Theberton, who were seeking election as Guild members, but he did not have forms completed for them. However, they wanted to be elected during this centenary year of the Armistice. This request generated considerable debate at the meeting as to whether they should be elected, as the correct process had not been followed. PJG, as Ringing Master, has not seen them ring, and therefore cannot

assess their abilities. He confirmed that the required standard for Guild membership is ringing rounds safely and unaided. However, discussion revealed that MC has seen them and he thinks they meet this standard. Reydon ringers also supported their membership, as they sometimes ring at Reydon.

Julie Rapior gave application forms to Michael Peters. He proposed their election, seconded by Mike Rolph.

Some Members expressed views about the proposal, some in favour and some against, as the correct membership application process had not been followed. MC put the election of Chris and Zoe Lister to the vote. 9 Members were in favour, and 2 against. Therefore their election was approved.

## **6. Election of District Officers**

Before the election took place, Hilary Stearn thanked all the officers of the Committee, on behalf of all present, for their tireless work during the year. Members showed their appreciation by a round of applause.

### Chairman

MC reminded Members that he will be stepping down as Chairman.

He asked for nominations. Sal Jenkinson was proposed as Chairman by Philip Gorrod and seconded by Ed Rolph. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Sal Jenkinson was duly elected.

MC said that at this point he would normally hand over the chairmanship of the meeting to the new Chairman, but Sal has sent her apologies. Members agreed that he should continue chairing the meeting.

### Secretary

Trevor Hughes proposed Kate Gill as Secretary, seconded by Peggy Meredith. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Kate Gill was duly elected.

### Treasurer

Hilary Stearn proposed Julie Rapior as Treasurer, seconded by Peggy Meredith. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Julie Rapior was duly elected.

### Ringling Master

Mike Cowling proposed Philip Gorrod as Ringling Master, seconded by Trevor Hughes. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Philip Gorrod was duly elected.

### Magazine Correspondent

MC explained that the Guild is not producing a magazine at present, but the Guild rules require the post to be considered. He suggested that the post is left vacant for the time being. Members approved this.

### GMC Representatives (5 places)

The GMC meets three times a year and is involved in formulating policy, expenditure of Guild funds, and responding to national developments. PJG added that there is no requirement to be a good ringer, rather someone with the necessary experience of assisting the running of a small charity.

MC proposed that Philip Gorrod (Ringling Master) and Michelle Rolph (Guild Report Editor) should take two of the five available places. This was approved by Members.

Nominations for the other three places were:  
Kate Gill (Secretary), proposed by Mike Cowling  
Jonathan Stevens, proposed by Philip Gorrod

Sarah Plummer, proposed by Dave Goldstone

Hilary Stearn also volunteered to stand. After discussion, she withdrew.

Members approved the election of Kate Gill, Jonathan Stevens and Sarah Plummer as the other three GMC members.

### **R&T Representatives (2 places)**

MC said that the current representatives are Philip Gorrod and Fiona Shuttle. Fiona Shuttle has indicated she is willing to stand again. He proposed that they both be appointed as R&T representatives again, and this was seconded by Sarah Plummer. This was approved by Members.

### **Other**

MC clarified that other members of the District Committee should be full members, not co-opted. Trevor Hughes and Richard Rapior are both willing to continue. Each was proposed by Mike Cowling and seconded by Philip Gorrod. Rona Sporle was proposed by Sarah Plummer and seconded by Philip Gorrod. All these members were approved by Members' vote.

## **7. Reports**

### Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)

Jonathan Stevens reported that a clapper repair has been made at Stradbroke and a wheel at Great Glemham patched up. He has carried out inspections at South Elmham St Cross (which are still safe but work is required) and Homersfield.

There had been a discussion about rehangng the ring at Little Glemham, but this has been suspended as the future of the Church is uncertain.

Jonathan invited any Members needing advice to contact him.

### Recruitment and Training

PJG asked Tom Scase, Guild Ringing Master, to comment as Chairman of the Committee. Tom advised that a grant of around £5000 has been received by the Guild and the plan is for one tower in each district to have a simulator. Grants of up to £1250 per tower would be available for this.

It was suggested that this should be installed on a tower with 8 reasonably easy bells.

### GMC

MC reported that he had attended most of the meetings, including the most recent one. At this, PJG volunteered the District to organise the Guild Social next year.

MC also commented that the new Chairman of the Guild, Rowan Wilson, is applying greater focus to scrutinising investment plans before grants are made.

The GMC had considered the future of the Guild Magazine and had deferred the decision.

## **8. Ringing Plans for 2019**

PJG reminded Members that two Tower Liaison meetings had been held in January. In response to Members' requests, a series of graded practices, at every level, had been made available across the District. However, as indicated in his Ringing Master's report, most of these had been poorly attended, and often only the local ringers were present. He said that he had contacted Tower Captains/Ringing Masters direct to ask them to consult with their ringers about their development needs.

There was considerable discussion about how Members should be encouraged to progress, but also a recognition that some Members are satisfied with being members of a local band, able to ring on Sundays and their own tower's practice, but not progressing to more advanced ringing. Suggestions from Members included:

- A mechanism for Members to be able to directly request practices in specific methods, techniques etc, without needing to go through their Tower Captain. PJG confirmed that he is happy to arrange events, even in response to individual requests.
- A recognition that a few NE Suffolk ringers have progressed faster in Norfolk due to greater opportunities to ring quarter peals.
- Some newer ringers, whilst feeling well supported, don't know how they should progress from now on.
- One of the difficulties is that ringers are not competent in the basics, such as leading.

PJG commented that it appears that the ongoing focus should be on the 10% of ringers who want to progress. He invited Members to email him direct with what training/quarter peal opportunities they would like.

Michael Peters commented that whilst he is training around 15 people, he is not attached to any tower, and does not receive any communications sent out by email as he does not have computer access. It was agreed that KG will try and ensure he receives such communications by post.

## **9. Tower Reports**

MC advised Members that the Committee has considered whether Tower Reports should be requested and has decided that it is a good idea to continue. They are helpful to the District Committee and for the PCC Annual Report. He asked that these be sent into Kate Gill by 31 January 2019 and asked that she send out a short proforma for a short report.

## **10. Any other business**

Tom Scase said that the next Peal Week will be held between Saturday 16 February and Saturday 23 February. The Guild Striking Competitions will be held on Saturday 18 May – six bell in Polstead and eight bell in Lavenham.

MC expressed our sincere thanks to the Southwold team for their hospitality and the use of the bells, which had contributed to a successful afternoon. This was followed by a round of applause.

MC, as retiring Chairman, also thanked the District Committee for their help, and particularly thanked Kate for her work as secretary supporting the District.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.