



**APPROVED Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting held at Beccles
5.30 pm Saturday 9 November 2019**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair, Sal Jenkinson, (SJ) introduced herself and welcomed 32 members to the meeting. She thanked the Rev Bill Mahood, NE District Chaplain, for an excellent service, and for his continued support for the District. She also thanked Rowan Wilson (chairman of the Suffolk Guild), Tom Scase (Guild Ringing Master) and Neal Dodge (Guild PR Officer) for attending the ADM this year.

The Chair received apologies from Fred Assman, Kate Assman, Susan Densham, Graham Downing, Peter Doy, Kate Gill (KG), Trevor Hughes, Julie Hughes, Aileen O'Hara, Michael Peters, Sharon Peters, Chrissie Pickup, Mike Sage, Fiona Shuttle, Hilary Stearn, Jonathan Stevens, Suzanne Stevens, Richard Stevens and Steven Wells.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous ADM held on 17 November 2018

SJ reminded Members that the draft minutes of this meeting had been circulated to Members earlier. Further copies were available.

SJ proposed the minutes as a correct record. The minutes were approved without amendment by Members present, none voting against.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 17 November 2018

None.

4. District Ringing Master's Report and planning for next year

The District Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod (PJG) referred to his written report, which had been tabled prior to the start of the meeting.

Dave Goldstone commended the effort that had been put in to establishing the training ideas proposed at last year's meeting.

Peggy Meredith thanked PJG for instigating the regular ringing at Blythburgh. PJG commented that if there are other towers which are not used enough it would be possible to set up similar programmes to ensure that the bells are rung at least once a month.

The committee will be setting a programme early in the New Year and PJG asked Members to tell him, SJ or KG of any requests to be included. He noted that much of the programme tends to be aimed at more experienced ringers as they tend to be more vocal and demanding. If we keep ringing the same things we will get worse so we need to be enthusiastic and ask for what we want.

There were more quarter peals rung in the District last year than in the two previous years and PJG particularly thanked Rona Sporle for organising and ringing in very many of them.

5. Election of New Members

Membership application forms were received from the following:

Erika Clarke	Mendham	Proposed: H Naunton	Seconded: P Gorrod
Owen Lower	Wissett	Proposed: H Spink	Seconded: J Iles
Kevin Mossop	Mendham	Proposed: H Naunton	Seconded: P Gorrod
Marie Owen	Beccles	Proposed: C Pickup	Seconded: K Gill

Carol Rose	Yoxford	Proposed: H Humphreys	Seconded: P Gorrod
Sheena Tower	Yoxford	Proposed: H Humphreys	Seconded: P Gorrod

The District Ringing Master confirmed that their ringing was of a sufficiently high standard and commented that he was very pleased to welcome such a good number of new members. Members unanimously approved their election. Their membership forms, with subscriptions were passed to the Treasurer.

6. Election of District Officers

SJ handed over the Chair at this point to PJG whilst the election of Chairman took place.

Chairman

Sal Jenkinson was proposed as Chairman by Sarah Plummer and seconded by Peggy Meredith. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Sal Jenkinson was duly elected.

SJ resumed the Chair.

Secretary

Kate Gill was proposed as Secretary by Tess Blower, seconded by Ed Rolph. Although Kate can't be at the meeting today, she has confirmed her willingness to stand. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Kate Gill was duly elected.

Treasurer

Julie Rapor was proposed as Treasurer by Julia Johnson, seconded by Veronica Downing. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Julie Rapor was duly elected.

Ringing Master

Philip Gorrod was proposed as Ringing Master by Michelle Rolph, seconded by Michael Rolph. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Philip Gorrod was duly elected.

Magazine Correspondent

PJG 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 a key decision-making forum within the Guild. SJ said that we are keen for some newer ringers to become members. The District has five places on the GMC. KG holds one of the places, but now has a place by virtue of being the Guild Secretary.

SJ proposed that PJG should take one of the places. This was approved by Members.

Nominations for the other four places were:

Jonathan Stevens, proposed by PJG

Sarah Plummer, proposed by Dave Goldstone

Michelle Rolph, proposed by SJ

Dave Goldstone, proposed by PJG

Members approved the election of Jonathan Stevens, Sarah Plummer, Michelle Rolph and Dave Goldstone as the other four GMC members.

R&T Representatives (2 places)

SJ said that the current representatives are PJG and Fiona Shuttle. Fiona Shuttle has indicated she is willing to stand again. Sarah Plummer proposed that PJG be appointed, seconded by Jon Iles and PJG proposed that Fiona Shuttle be appointed, seconded by Veronica Downing. These appointments were approved by Members.

Other committee members

Richard Rapor was proposed by PJG and seconded by Michelle Golding, Rona Sporle was proposed by PJG and seconded by Veronica Downing and Trevor Hughes was proposed by Richard Rapor and seconded by Michael Rolph. All these members were approved by Members' vote.

7. Reports

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)

No report had been submitted to the meeting. PJG noted that Jonathan Stevens is standing down from the committee but the appointment of his replacement is not a matter for this meeting.

Recruitment and Training

PJG referred to his written report, which had been tabled prior to the start of the meeting.

Southwold has agreed to take the proposed simulator. The next step will be the appointment of someone to advise and help with the organisation. Then the simulator can be purchased.

Rowan Wilson reported that the ringing Discovery Centre at St Peter Mancroft is an excellent and very helpful resource. She urged Members to try it. Details can be found on What's On and social media pages and on the Centre's website. For some members it feels quite a long distance to travel to Norwich to use this facility but it is well worth it and there is no prospect of a similar centre being established in Suffolk. The lunchtime session on Fridays was recommended as a good introduction and there is also an open session on Monday mornings (10.00-12.00) which provides plenty of scope to learn (check What's On or their website for further information).

During a discussion about the Centre most Members who have used it were very positive about it, having found it helpful, with expert teaching available and plenty of opportunity to participate. Learners are able to make fast progress and even total beginners can get a feel for ringing. However it can be quite difficult to get used to the system so, to avoid being put off trying again, Rona Sporle recommended that ringers should consider taking a step down on their first visit, until they get used to the system.

Peggy Meredith thought that using this 21st century resource would be a useful aid to recruitment and PJG thought that the Southwold simulator would, once installed, draw some of the people who might otherwise have gone to Norwich. The Mancroft Centre is probably most useful for ringers who wish to progress and it is anticipated that beginners will still wish to start at their home towers.

PJG suggested that a District Outing to Norwich to try out the Centre might be arranged.

GMC

PJG referred to his written report, which had been tabled prior to the start of the meeting. He noted that the committee takes away from the Members the burden of admin and provides useful benefits (such as the recent increase in the age Members are insured to from 75 to 80).

Treasurer

Julie Rapor reported that only three subscriptions remained unpaid this year. There are 144 members and 9 new members have joined this year.

Subscription rates have been changed for 2020 and the treasurer asked Members to note the change to age ranges as well as to subscription rates. Subscription reminders will be sent out in January.

8. Approval of move of Hoxne from NE District to NW District

PJG advised Members of the background to this request. Whilst Hoxne is nominally in the NE District it would make more sense for it to be in the NW District. This needs the formal approval of both Districts. Members approved the move from NE to NW district.

9. Upcoming events in 2020

Guild AGM Saturday 18 April – to be organised by SW District

VE Day Friday 8 May – Neal Dodge said that, after last year's near universal coverage of ringing to commemorate the end of WW1, it is hoped to have good support next year for ringing on the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The bank holiday has been moved from Monday to Friday which may help with ringers' availability. More details will follow but ringers will be encouraged to decide what is appropriate in their areas. Neil will want details of planned ringing to help him with promotion.

District Striking Competition Saturday 13th June – the date for this has been moved to avoid the VE Day ringing and the proposed date of Saturday 13th June is subject to committee confirmation.

Guild 6 bell Striking Competition Saturday 16 May – note that this is only a 6 bell competition and therefore it may fit into an afternoon.

10. Safeguarding

SJ said that safeguarding is very important. It simply involves looking out for each other, particularly any vulnerable people, and is what we all want to do anyway. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all ringers and should not be left to the tower captains. The CofE portal has a safeguarding quiz which is informative and which all members should do. The quiz takes about 30 minutes to complete.

11. Tower Reports

SJ said that many towers have sent in reports and this is appreciated as it provides a picture of the current state of ringing in our towers and highlights any issues. It is also useful for PCCs. Please send reports to KG by the end of December if possible. Presenting the reports to PCCs also brings the bell ringers to their attention.

12. Any Other Business

SJ expressed our sincere thanks to the Beccles team for their hospitality and the use of the bells, which had contributed to a successful afternoon.

A certificate for Level 2 Foundation Skills was presented to Rosie Rolph.

Rowan Wilson thanked Members for coming and commented on the large turnout. She found PJG's reports very helpful. She urged Members to use the Discovery Centre as well as other training opportunities available, such as the monthly 10 bell practice and she noted that we are the only District which holds a 10 bell practice.

The meeting closed at 6.30.