

**Suffolk Guild of Ringers  
Recruitment and Training Committee  
16th January 2022  
By zoom**

**Present:**

Katharine Salter, Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase, Maureen Gardiner, Cath Colman, Philip Gorrod, Pauline Brown

**Apologies:**

Fiona Shuttle

**1. Follow up from R&T 14th November 2021**

The committee is happy that the training plan for St Gregory Sudbury meets the grant conditions, Katharine will write to the Guild executive on the committee's behalf to confirm this.

The ART part 1 course on 19th March at Earl Stonham is full, all 12 places are taken.

Jenny needs to arrange for the bells to be silenced for the course, it was suggested that she make contact with Jackie Savage at Felixstowe to find out how to make some rope and cycle inner tube clapper ties, if required both Katharine and Cath have available inner tubes.

We discussed the need to establish mentors and support for the course attendees, Lesley Boyle has suggested this can be sorted out on the day, but Mark noted this has been a problem before.

Mark suggested that we could consider running monthly simulator sessions at Felixstowe and Southwold where learners, teachers and mentors could combine.

We discussed the potential to subsidise the cost of the course for attendees, buying log books in bulk and/or buying the video, there was a feeling that the Golden Bottle fund could possibly fund this.

Philip noted that his learners all pay £2 for their logbook and a one per learner book.

**Action:** Mark to approach Stephen Cheek how this was done previously

**Action:** Mark has yet to make progress on the ART part 2 course, he hasn't had chance to do this since the last meeting.

**2. District round up**

SW

Higham and Stratford St Mary have changed their practice night

NE

Getting going again, Aldeburgh have kept ringing but a number of others have gone back to Ringing Room

NW

Continued with in person ringing with differences in approaches between towers and there is not much mixing between towers.

Alan Moulton has been supporting the Hitcham where they have been having a beginners practice on a Tuesday night and every 2nd Thursday having a more advanced practice, but going forward they are only practicing on a Tuesday and they ring at Rattlesden on Thursdays, they are struggling because of the number of learners. Alan has asked if the R&T committee can offer support.

Buxhall have a good 8 bell practice on a Tuesday

Norman Tower are practicing successfully on a Thursday

Barrow are practicing and have learners

## SE

The district practice at Debenham on 1st January was well attended with almost 30 people present, some places continue to practice regularly, it was unknown what ringing if any was taking place on the Shotley peninsular.

Barham are very dependent on Carl being able to attend to help.

The Debenham group of parishes are intending to recruit across the group, with the expectation that the learners will ring across all the towers, not just one.

We also discussed young ringers and the current lack of them.

There is no ringing at Dennington and Badingham as they don't currently have any ringers.

## Westhorpe

Clive Mees is running the project, they have 15 people wanting to learn to ring. Maureen is providing support they are looking to run a taster session to inform a 6 week intensive course with 2 sessions per week. We discussed the opportunity that this would present to consolidate the ART teachers doing the course at Earl Stonham in March.

Maureen and Clive are still discussing how they might develop the learners further, Clive is intending to take them to the ringing gym at the Norman Tower where Rowan can offer support, they will also need the support of the surrounding towers.

They were thinking of using Wickham Skeith, Cath suggested that Bacton would also be good, but they would need to be silenced.

They hope to start teaching in the spring.

The aim is by the end of the 6 week intensive session some of them will be able to control a bell on their own. Philip suggested that it might be worth reviewing progress after 3 weeks as by then there may be divergence in the learners abilities by then.

Philip noted that when he taught a group for Mendham he charged them £100 each as an upfront commitment, as well as the tuition in return they got 3 years membership of the Guild and some books including the one per learner and their ART logbook.

## Barham

Are finding it hard, they have their learners plus Carl and Josephine for support.

## Wider support for learners

Katharine noted that there are a number of towers needing support with their learners and the difficulty is getting support where it is needed is challenging as people are reluctant to commit as individuals to help. She suggested that as the R&T committee we send out a whole Guild email asking people to give up one extra night a month to go to another practice and help support learners, this doesn't need to be teaching it could just be being prepared to ring rounds all night.

We discussed the idea and agreed that we would give it a try

**Action:** Katharine to draft something and share with the committee before sending out.

#### Platinum Jubilee Ideas

70 new ringers in 2022 - there was general support for this, noting that we have several potential ringers for both Westhorpe and Stowmarket before we reach out for more

Cath suggested 70 teachers trained, the committee noted this was a laudable aim but maybe a bit stretching.

Philip noted that membership has dropped somewhat during the past 2 years and that it might be good to get 70 new members.

We agreed to go with both

- 70 new ringers
- 70 new members