

Recruitment and Training Committee

Date: Sunday 2nd February 2020, 2.30pm
Venue: Stowmarket – The King’s Arm
Attended: Pauline Brown (SW); Maureen Gardiner (NW); Philip Gorrod (NE);
Jenny Scase (SE) and Tom Scase (GRM)
Apologies: Mark Ogden (SE); Fiona Shuttle (NE); Rowan Wilson (NW)

- 1) **Welcome and apologies** – TS welcomed everyone and noted apologies from Mark Ogden, Fiona Shuttle and Rowan Wilson.

- 2) **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising** – JS commented on the note section to action 9d ii), which stated John Girt and Roger Coley are running these training sessions; this is not correct. A taster session ran at Earl Stonham, which was arranged with a combination of ringers from Ashbocking, Debenham, Earl Stonham and Otley - 13 potential learners attended. In terms of further teaching: four are going to St Margaret’s in Ipswich on Saturday mornings; four are going to a weekly session at Otley on Thursday evenings; David Stanford has offered to teach four at Clopton; and one is planning on attending the Essex Association Ringing Course, to learn handling. With this correction and no further matters arising, not otherwise covered on the agenda, the minutes were accepted.

- 3) **Applications for training grants** – none received. TS explained to PB and MG that previously the Guild has paid a grant of £15 to a member attending an ART course. The R&T committee asks the applicant to write a few lines about their ringing background and also included why they would like to attend an ART course.

- 4) **Feedback re training courses held** – none have taken place since the last R&T committee meeting.

- 5a) **Future training courses planned, ART accredited** – currently, there are no ART courses planned in Suffolk. JS visited the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre (MRDC), last week, and spoke with Nikki Thomas; there is likely to be an M1 ART course in South Norfolk (possibly at Loddon) in the not too distant future. It was also noted the Essex Ringing course includes an ART accredited course. A South East member has made contact with the Essex Association about this, however, has yet to receive a reply. JS has interest from SE District members wishing to attend a M1 course, and is happy to liaise with ART re potentially organising a course in Suffolk. Earl Stonham is a possible location, given its facilities and central location.

- 5b) **Future training courses planned, District lead training courses for 2020**
NE – MG noted the NE and SW still plan to organise a joint course at MRDC later in the year. MG also noted RW had mentioned the availability of the simulator at the Norman Tower.
SE – JS noted the SE is looking to hold its training session later in the year, and also possibly visit the MRDC.

NE – PG noted there had been an additional session at Rumburgh for two ringers learning plain hunt. With six helpers, this was beneficial.

SW – no specific courses planned at the moment.

6) Updates from District RMs

Philip – the NE recently had a long committee meeting, which included new committee members. PG noted some bands flourish where they are community based, for example Laxfield and Yoxford. The two learners from Mendham are progressing very well, and are ringing up to three evenings a week – a success. Other towers are going through quieter times.

Jenny – the first SE District practice of the year, at Woodbridge, was extremely well attended, with over 45 present. The February practice was at Monewden saw about 30 in attendance and included a biscuit bake off. JS is encouraging the District Area Representatives to be a visible link between their area and the District. To make this easier, some towers are now allocated to a different area.

Maureen – the first NW District practice of the year saw around 30 in attendance. There will no longer be a quarter peal attempts before the District practice, although there may be quarter peal attempts after some.

Pauline – the SW District is having a method of the month for each practice, although when it was Stedman Triples, there were not sufficient ringers to ring this. The practice at Lavenham was popular with 31 in attendance.

7) Young and up & coming ringers – the meeting discussed Mark's email re identifying Young Ringers in the Guild who could ring in the Ringing World National Youth Contest. Unfortunately, based on information provided by the Guild Membership Secretary, the meeting agreed it is unlikely The Suffolk Guild currently has sufficient young ringers (with the requisite ability/enthusiasm) to enter a band this year.

8) R&T opportunities – events/support – Gather is to be held on 28 September; it would be good to attend again. The meeting noted RW has booked the Guild mini ring to hopefully offer a Taster session as part of the 2020 celebrations for 1000th anniversary of the Abbey.

9a) Any other business – Golden Bottle: applications for grant (how to process) and how/who to order the equipment? – TS queried with MG whether Stowmarket already has a simulator (Stowmarket is listed on the Guild Website as having one). MG noted they did previously, however, it has fallen into disuse, has not been used for the five years she has been in Stowmarket.

RW had contact people who may be able to help. John Taylor and Tim Hart had replied indicating their willingness to assist, where possible. PG agreed to email round the Golden Bottle document to show how grant is to be spent.

TS indicated we need to try and make some progress with the next stages and will liaise with RW and those who indicated their willingness to help.

9b) Draft document to link recruitment and training with Guild Grant applications – the meeting agreed point 5, in relation to point 5d, should reference the R&T committee as well as the BAC committee.

10) Date and venue for next meeting – the next meeting will be on Sunday 7th June 2020, 2.30pm at The King’s Arm, Stowmarket.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Actions from February 2020

Item		Action	Notes
Outstanding Action (carried over from Nov 19 actions)		i) R&T members to work through these and, using the following groupings, designate the current resources: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&T cmte functions • Guild members • New ringers • Possible new recruits (better title needed please!) ii) RW – to revamp the front page (as GC) and suggest a link to take people who have ‘landed’ on the website and may be interested in learning to ring to relevant ‘non corporate’ resources e.g. map of where the ringable towers are.	RW – no action yet
Outstanding Action (carried over from Nov 19 actions)	Young ringers	MO to book MRCS a.s.a.p. (and give helpers plenty of notice of suggested dates)	
Outstanding Action (carried over from Nov 19 actions)	Grant Application process	R&T members to commit some thoughts to paper re different approaches they have used/experienced to recruit and train new ringers (pros and cons, what worked, pitfalls how much can the Guild/District actually do to help?). Mini case studies might be of more use than trying to use a flow chart like the BAC grant guidelines.	
5a	Future Training Course Planned	JS to liaise with ART re potential holding a M1 ART course in Suffolk in	
9a	Golden Bottle	PG to email round Golden Bottle document	Done – 3 rd Feb
9a	Golden Bottle	TS to liaise with others re next stages.	Since the meeting, Stowmarket has withdrawn their application for a Golden Bottle Grant. NW District needs to identify an alternative tower (has Fornham St Martin been suggested).