

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers held on Saturday 22nd April 2006 at Bury St Edmunds

1. The Chairman, Mr Winston Girling, opened the meeting by giving a warm welcome to the sixty three members present. He thanked all those involved in the day's arrangements, the Cathedral authorities, Ian and Marion Holland and all those involved in the tea planned for after the service. He welcomed the opportunity for Guild members to ring on such a fine ten.

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of members who had died during the past year.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from John and Shirley Girt, Revd Brian Redgers, John Taylor, Peter Ernst, Corinne Ellam, Susan Schurr, Jonathan and Suzanne Stevens, Bel and Ray Rivers, Catherine and Julian Colman, Jackie Savage, Susan Freeman, Rose Godfrey, John Malster, Michael Rolph

3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM

These had been published in the Annual Report and were accepted by the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Officers' Reports

Master: David Salter presented the Master's report as printed in the Annual Report. It was accepted by the meeting.

Secretary: Mary Garner proposed the acceptance of the Secretary's report as printed. This was seconded by Maurice Rose and agreed by the meeting.

Treasurer: Keith Ashton Jones presented the accounts as published. He commented that they had now been audited. He added that some grants had been awarded which were yet to be paid. He proposed the acceptance of the accounts for 2005, which was seconded by Gordon Slack and carried by the meeting.

Public Relations Officer: Bruce Wakefield had been co opted during the year. He reported that the Ipswich Christmas ringing had been well publicised and had good coverage on local television and radio. He reported that the proposed restoration at Chediston had been given one sided local radio coverage. The radio station had been contacted and a second broadcast made giving a more balanced view. He suggested that the Guild ringing for the Queen's 80th birthday should be publicized. He stressed the importance of publicising the Guild and welcomed the opportunity to advertise appropriate events.

Belfry Advisory Committee: Alan Moulton proposed that the report as printed should be adopted. It was seconded by Diana Pipe. This was agreed with one correction, that the old tenor at Rushmere was now hung as a clock bell, not recast.

Librarian: Gillian Wakefield proposed the report as presented. This was seconded by Carl Melville and agreed by the meeting.

Peal Secretary:

Christine Knight proposed the acceptance of her report as printed.

It was noted that two peals referred to the Ringing World for a full description of methods. It was explained the decision was made because of the length of the list of methods and printing costs. However it had since been decided that the details would be published in full in the next report. The Chairman reported that he had recently received a letter expressing a wish for the peals to be withdrawn and attributed to the Icen Guild. Lively discussion followed which concluded that the current rules cover all situations adequately. The rule change to be proposed later in the meeting, namely:

Guild Constitution F. Records and Handbells. Rule 23 to read "*All peals rung for the Guild shall be published in full in the Annual Report, except where there are more than 42 methods, when the Ringing*

World reference shall be given instead. A summary of other peals and quarter peals rung in the Diocese shall be published in the Annual Report.” was withdrawn by the proposer.

The report was seconded by James Smith and agreed by the meeting.

Handbell Trustee: Brian Whiting, the trustee, reported that in addition to the set in the SW with Winnie Lockwood, the NE district with Jonathan Stevens, the two sets in his care, there was now a set in the NW district. He proposed that his report be adopted. This was seconded by Maurice Rose, and agreed by the meeting.

6 . Subscriptions, fees and donations for 2007

The GMC proposed that all subscriptions, fees and donations be held at 2006 levels for 2007

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Ringling Member	£ 13.00
Ringling Member 65-74	£ 6.50
Members 75 and over	Free
Ringling member in full time education	£ 5.00
Associate member	£ 6.50
Non Resident Life Member	£ 6.00
Peal Fee	£ 1.00

Donations:

Friends of St Peter's Sudbury	£ 50.00
Friends of the Cathedral	£ 50.00
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust	£ 50.00
Donations in lieu of Wreaths	£ 25.00

The proposal was seconded by Sally Munnings. It was agreed with a majority in favour and none against.

7. Election of Officers for 2006/2007:

Maurice Rose thanked all the Guild and District Officers for their service over the past year.

Vice Presidents: Mandy Shedden proposed and David Mulrenan seconded, that the Vice Presidents as listed in the 2005 Annual Report be re-elected on bloc. This was agreed.

Chairman: Maurice Rose proposed, seconded by Alan Moulton, that Winston Girling be re-elected as Chairman. Mr Girling was elected.

Ringling Master: Winston Girling thanked David Salter for all his hard work during the past three years. Brian Whiting proposed Richard Munnings for the post of Ringling Master. Brian told the meeting that Richard had suitable credentials, being born and bred in Suffolk and coming from a ringling family. Whilst living away he had been ringling with one of the best bands in the country and now, back in Suffolk, he was involved with teaching and service ringling. The proposal was seconded by Stephen Pettman and carried by the meeting.

Secretary: Brian Whiting proposed, seconded by Diana Pipe, that Mary Garner be re-elected as Secretary. Mrs Garner was elected. She was thanked for her work during the last year.

Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary:. Maurice Rose proposed, seconded by Carol Girling, that Keith Ashton-Jones be re-elected as Treasurer and Gift Aid secretary. Mr Ashton Jones was elected. He was thanked for all his hard work during the past year.

Technical Adviser: The Chairman recorded thanks from the Guild for all the work that Alan Moulton had done in this post. (Alan is a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.) Michael Rolph was proposed from the Chair and accepted by the meeting.

Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee: Gordon Slack proposed, seconded by Alan Moulton, that Winston Girling be re-elected as Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee. Mr Girling was elected.

Public Relations Officer: Sally Munnings proposed, seconded by Chris Garner, that Bruce Wakefield be elected as Public Relations Officer. Dr Wakefield was elected.

Librarian: Stephen Pettman proposed, seconded by James Smith, that Gillian Wakefield be re-elected as Librarian. Mrs Wakefield was elected

Report Editor: Maurice Rose proposed, seconded by Carol Girling, that Ruth Suggett be re-elected as Report Editor. Mrs Suggett was elected

Ruth was thanked by the meeting for the hard work she had put in to produce this year's report.

Newsletter Editor: Carol Girling proposed, seconded by Dr Ann Gath, that Carl Melville be re-elected as Newsletter Editor. Mr Melville was elected

Peal Secretary: James Smith proposed, seconded by David Salter, that Christine Knight be re-elected as Peal Secretary. Mrs Knight was elected.

Auditor: Keith Ashton-Jones proposed, seconded by James Smith, that Larking Gowen should be re-elected as Auditor. This was agreed by the meeting.

Handbell Trustee: Gordon Slack proposed, seconded by Adrian Knights, that Brian Whiting be re-elected as Handbell Trustee. Mr Whiting was elected.

8. Election of Life Honorary Members

Sally Munnings, on behalf of the SE District proposed Geoff Pulford for Life Honorary Membership. She spoke of his many years as Deanery Representative and his faithful commitment to his band. The proposal was seconded by Alan McBurnie and Geoff was elected by the meeting.

9. Election of New Members

The following were proposed, seconded and elected as members of the Guild:

Mrs A Wood, Jane Wright, Daniel Wright, Mrs Janice Lee, Miss Rebecca Lee, Graham Downing, Thomas N de-Vries, Mrs Vicky J Daniell, Mrs Anne Buswell, Mrs Vanessa Laker, Dawn Scotcher, Lillian Caudle, Mrs J Hoar, Mr R. Hoar.

10. Proposed Rule Changes

The GMC proposed that Rule 3 be deleted from "The Mitson Shield and Rose Trophy Striking Competitions."

David Salter explained that the background to this was to enable people to take part in the competitions representing their tower and or district. It is hoped that it will encourage more ringers to take part.

Discussion followed during which concern was expressed regarding the possible abuse of the spirit in which this was meant. The District competitions were cited and comments made that there had been no problems there. Concern was also expressed that this rule change might lead to exclusivity.

The rule change was seconded by Stephen Pettman and carried by the meeting with 1 vote against and 17 abstentions.

11. Date and Venue for 2007 AGM

The 2007 AGM will take place on Saturday 14th April 2007 in the SW District at a venue yet to be decided.

12. Any Other Business

David Salter reported that he had been approached by Christain Aid who had asked that the bells in Ipswich be rung between 11am and 1pm on the Saturday prior to Christain Aid Week as an aid to their publicity.

Veronica Downing advertised the Olde Time Farming Day to be held on 15th July to raise funds for the Chediston Bells Appeal.

St Edmunds Clapper. Two towers only had taken part, Sproughton and Offton, and it was unclear which had won. Offton retained the trophy until the matter was clarified. It was felt that more promotion was needed for this competition.

Fleeces, sweatshirts and polo shirts with the Guild logo will be available again in the autumn.

The Librarian announced that various items were on sale, including a CD with records of the Bowell Foundry. Pictures and cards were for sale in aid of the Guild Library. She will also undertake portraits.

Disappointment was expressed that proposals for work at All Saints Sudbury had come to a halt again and querying whether the Guild should put money there. Concern was expressed about the limited ringing at Stonham Aspal and Mildenhall. Alan Moulton reported that tests at Mildenhall showed that the tower was being damaged by the ring of ten and that the back two should only be rung occasionally. He said that the 7 and 8 at Stonham Aspal were unringable due to movement in the side frame. It was thought that this would be repairable.

Ringling for the Queen's 80th Birthday. It was agreed that David Salter would collect together the Guild records of special ringing between the Queen's actual and official birthdays. Please submit information to him for publication.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.45pm.