

**2023 Annual General Meeting of  
The Suffolk Guild of Ringers  
For the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. St Michael's Beccles**

Draft Minutes by Kate Gill

**1. Welcome, thanks and apologies**

The meeting started at 6.30 pm.

- a. Rowan Wilson, as Chairman, welcomed everyone present to the Guild's Centenary AGM.
- b. She thanked Canon Rich Henderson for taking the service, Jason Busby for playing the organ, Sarah Plummer for her reading and Faith Darch for the prayers.
- c. Rowan also thanked the NE District for organising the proceedings today, including ringing at Wilby and Yoxford. She thanked Kate Gill for pulling all the arrangements together.
- d. Rowan expressed thanks to Chris Garner for his continued work on the Guild website and communicating with members.
- e. Alison Kenny was also thanked for taking photographs today, particularly the large group photo outside.
- f. Apologies were received from 38 members and have been recorded in the Attendance Book.

**2. Absent Friends**

Neal Dodge read out the names of the following members who have passed away since the 2022 AGM.

Brian Hale, Ixworth; Donald Price, Southwold; Jane Stearn, Tunstall; David Brand, Rougham; Christopher Barker, Otley; Herbert (Jimmy) Wightman, Otley; Timothy Cavell, Bardwell; Loraine Beer, Falkenham; Ian Imrie, Wickham Market.

Members stood in remembrance of these absent friends.

**3. Election of New Members**

Application forms and subscriptions were received from four prospective new members.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Tower</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Hal Meakin	Ipswich, SMLT	Jonathan Williamson	Amanda Richmond
Janus van Helvert	Ipswich, St Margarets	Amanda Richmond	Jonathan Williamson
Fiona Smith	Woodbridge	Amanda Richmond	Chris Birkby
Freja Butler	Ipswich St Matthew	Amanda Richmond	Jonathan Williamson

All members were in favour of their election with no abstentions. At this point, Rowan reminded members that they are not entitled to vote if their subscription is not up to date.

#### **4. Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

- a. Rowan said that although not all printed copies of Annual Reports have yet been circulated, the 2022 AGM minutes have been available on the website for some time.
- b. There were two amendments to the draft 2022 minutes noted:
  - Item 2 – Absent Friends. Correct names to Hazel Judge and Marion Holland.
  - Item 6 – Trustees’ Report. Correct Leslie to Lesley.
  - Mark Ogden observed that the names of those members who had sent apologies to the 2022 AGM were not recorded in the minutes. The Chairman said we would review this. *Post meeting note. The apologies sent to the 2022 AGM are recorded in the Attendance Book. There has been variable practice over recent years as to whether apologies are listed within the minutes.*
- c. Lesley Steed proposed, and Stephen Cheek seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. All members voted in favour of this, apart from three abstentions from members not present at the 2022 AGM.

#### **5. Matters arising from the minutes**

None other than the amendments recorded above.

#### **6. Officer Reports**

- a. Rowan invited any questions about the officer reports. There were no questions.
- b. David Steed proposed that the officer reports be accepted en bloc. This was seconded by Mark Ogden. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

#### **7. Trustee Reports**

- a. Rowan invited any questions about the trustees’ report. There were none. Mark Ogden proposed that the trustees’ report be accepted and Chris Garner seconded. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

#### **8. Annual Report – Editor’s Report**

- a. Mark Ogden thanked all who had contributed to the report, and the meeting showed its appreciation for these contributions.
- b. The reports are with the district secretaries for distribution.
- c. Mark asked for photographs of district events to include in the Annual Report next year, which may include photographs in colour.
- d. Rowan thanked Mark for his production of an excellent report, and the meeting showed its appreciation.

## 9. Central Council Report (2022)

- a. Rowan explained that this report is available on the website, within the minutes of the GMC meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022.
- b. She asked that any queries be directed to the new Guild Chairman or district CCCBR representatives.

## 10. Subscriptions and Peal Fees (2024)

These will remain unchanged.

## 11. Election of Officers for 2023/24

- a. Rowan indicated that she would remain in the chair for this item, as she is not being proposed for election next year as her term of office has ended.
- b. She thanked Stephen Cheek, who has come to the end of his term as treasurer, and all the GMC representatives, whether past or present.
- c. Rowan went on to say that the Guild is in a strong position at present, but we need to maintain momentum, and it is important to make sure officer positions are filled.

### Election of Guild Chairman

Mark Ogden is willing to stand, proposed by Richard Knight and seconded by Christine Knight. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

### Election of Guild Treasurer

Tim Hart is willing to stand, proposed by Rowan Wilson and seconded by Stephen Cheek. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

### Other Officer Posts

These are shown in the table below. There were no other nominations for the posts.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Ringing Master	Katharine Salter	Richard Munnings	Amanda Richmond
Secretary	Kate Gill	Philip Gorrod	Dave Goldstone
BAC Chairman	Chris Davies	Alan Moulton	Mark Steggles
Technical Advisor	Alan Moulton & Jed Flatters (jointly)	Chris Davies	Christopher McArthur
PRO	Neal Dodge	David Steed	Maureen Gardiner
Report Editor	Mark Ogden	Chris Garner	Mary Garner
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Stephen Cheek	Liz Christian
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Maurice Rose	Brian Whiting
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Jan Sheldrake	Gordon Slack
Mini Ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Jan Sheldrake	Gordon Slack
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Richard Munnings	Kate Eagle

- d. Mark Ogden indicated that we need to find a new Report Editor at the AGM next year, now that he has taken on the role of Guild Chairman.
- e. A new Guild Secretary will be needed at the AGM next year, as Kate Gill comes to the end of her 5 year term then.
- f. All members approved the election of all the above en bloc, with no abstentions, followed by a round of applause.

## **12. Election of Trustees**

- a. Rowan Wilson and Stephen Cheek are stepping down as trustees. They will be replaced by Mark Ogden, the new Guild Chairman, and Tim Hart, the new Guild Treasurer.
- b. Katharine Salter and Kate Gill will remain as trustees.
- c. Stephen Cheek proposed, and Rowan Wilson seconded, that Mark Ogden, Tim Hart, Katharine Salter and Kate Gill be elected as trustees. All members voted in favour of their election, with no abstentions.

## **13. Election of Central Council Representatives**

Rowan explained that there is no need to elect the Central Council representatives this year, as they should be elected during the second year of the CCCBR triennium, therefore at the AGM in April 2024.

## **14.50 Year Membership Awards**

- a. Alan Mayle was awarded his 50 Year membership award at the Guild Centenary Dinner in March 2023.
- b. Paul Stannard is another member with 50 years membership and is to be presented with his award at the AGM today.
- c. Rowan gave an interesting account of Paul's life and achievements, including Paul's early ringing career in the Norman Tower, BSE. He was a quick learner, ringing his first QP at Horringer in 1971 and his first peal at Lakenheath in 1973. Paul has been a prolific ringer, scoring 317 peals to date, with 45 in the Norman Tower and 759 QPs.
- d. Paul has been active overseas as well, including ringing in the first peal of 16 bells at Perth Swan Tower in 2016. Paul has arranged bell ringing outings and holidays in this country. He has rung at nearly every ringable tower in the UK, his total standing at present at 6,284, including mini rings. He was a regular ringer at the Norman Tower for 25 years, and tower captain there for 12 years.
- e. Paul was instrumental in raising funds to rehang the bells at Barrow and has donated a number of bells for new or augmented rings.
- f. Rowan invited Paul to receive his certificate. Paul thanked everyone and enjoyed a round of applause.

## **15. St Edmund's Clapper Competition**

- a. Stephen Cheek introduced this item and explained that whilst £100 had been collected by the Norman Tower 'beer volunteers' at the East Anglian Beer Festival held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in June 2022; the most significant fund raising had been by Rowan, with her '100 Towers cycling challenge'.
- b. To date, Rowan has raised £650, with Gift Aid to be added where appropriate, and further pledges of £110.

- c. He presented Rowan with the St Edmunds's Clapper. Rowan thanked everyone for their support.

#### **16. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

- a. Stephen Cheek proposed, and Diana Pipe seconded, that BAS Accountants be appointed as the Guild's independent examiners for the 2023 accounting year.
- b. Stephen added that BAS have been efficient and economical.
- c. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

#### **17. Guild Events 2023/24**

- a. Rowan encouraged members to review regularly the What's On pages on the website, and thanked Chris Garner for his efficiency in posting them, using information from contributors.
- b. The Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May at Troston, a brand new ring.
- c. The Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> September at Hitcham. There will not be a Guild Social as we have had the Centenary Dinner this year.
- d. The Ridgman Trophy is on 17<sup>th</sup> June in Towcester.
- e. Districts have varying plans for ringing to celebrate the Coronation in the period around 6<sup>th</sup> May.
- f. Katharine Salter asked members to let her, or district ringing masters, know if they are having difficulty finding bands to ring for the Coronation.

#### **18. Events to Celebrate the Guild's Centenary**

- a. Rowan said that she has left scope for the new Chairman to arrange some events for the later part of the centenary year. Mark Ogden confirmed that he has some ideas.
- b. The centenary edition of the Ringing World features the Guild throughout and is an excellent edition, with thanks to Katharine Salter for acting as guest editor and Mike Cowling for his production of the sound recordings, available via QR codes. These recordings are also available via the tower pages of the website.
- c. The Guild has also featured regularly in the BBC's 'Bells on Sunday'.
- d. Rowan thanked Clare Veal for her write-up of the Centenary Dinner and Mike Cowling for his photographs. The event had been a great success with 130 people attending.
- e. There are links on Bellboard for 'centenary achievements' and 'centenary performances'. 36 achievements have already been recorded.

- f. Rowan has produced 8 certificates for new or returning ringers:
  - Erika Clarke – first QP of treble bob (Wissett)
  - Amanda Critchlow – first QP (Sproughton)
  - Kevin Mossop – most methods (Wissett)
  - Claire Free – first peal since 1988 and first on 8 (Bardwell)
  - Ellen Christmas – first QP (Sproughton)
  - Marion Knight-Dixon – first QP (Redgrave)
  - Isis Holmes – first QP (Holbrook)
  - Samuel Rawson – first QP (Holbrook)
- g. Rowan invited anyone else who would like a centenary achievement certificate to let her know. The new Chairman will decide how certificates are to be awarded in future.
- h. Claire Free was presented with her certificate.
- i. The Central Council will be holding its annual weekend in Ipswich, during the first weekend of September. Neal Dodge said that there will be varying events, including ringing at different levels at three towers on the Friday; a social evening on Friday evening; a CAMRA led beer, cider and curry evening on Saturday; service ringing on Sunday with members of the Central Council. Over lunch on Sunday there will be discussion of the Ringing 2030 strategy plus ringing and training sessions in the afternoon.
- j. Cath Colman reiterated how wonderful it is that this event is being held in Ipswich and asked members to keep abreast of announcements in the Ringing World.
- k. Katharine Salter added that there is a 5K run on the Sunday morning, to which everyone is very welcome.
- l. Veronica Downing proposed a vote of thanks to Katharine Salter, Mike Cowling, Neal Dodge, Richy Munnings and any other contributors for the excellent RW edition.
- m. Guild Centenary badges are available for purchase.
- n. There will be an afternoon tea event on 5<sup>th</sup> August at Bramford, open to all and as an opportunity for a social event for those unable to attend the Guild dinner earlier this year.
- o. The Centenary beer is still being progressed.
- p. Rowan has collected over 80 surveys at the district ADMs held at the end of last year. The results of these will be collated ready for the GMC meeting in June.

#### **19. Any Other Business – discussion only**

- a. Mark Ogden advised members that we now know the changes required to align the tallies with Pealbase, with the corrective action still to be taken. This is important in order to record the Guild's 10,000<sup>th</sup> peal this year, and the 4000<sup>th</sup> major peal should be reached as well.
- b. Ralph Earey observed that of the 96 people in the Group photograph earlier today, 17 members remain unidentified.
- c. There will be a Veterans' Event on 12<sup>th</sup> July in Debenham. All are very welcome.

- d. Rowan thanked Mike Cowling and Abby Antrobus for the Guild history exhibition at the AGM.
- e. Some dinner menu cards are available for members who would like them.
- f. Rowan thanked Brian Whiting for the potted history of the Guild and Ben Keating for the artwork on the dinner menu cards.
- g. Katharine asked everyone to thank Rowan and Stephen for their 5 years' magnificent service as Guild Chairman and Treasurer, including a very difficult period during the pandemic. She presented each of them with a small gift. This was followed by a round of applause.

**20. Date of next AGM**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the NW district.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.