

**Meeting of the Management Committee held on Saturday 18th July 1998
at Buxhall Village Hall**

Present:- B E Whiting (Chairman), D G Salter (Ringing Master), Mrs K J Salter, S D Pettman, A R Stone, R A Knight, R C Whiting, M J Rose, D R Barnard, Mrs C A Colman, M Rolph, T D Hughes, A P Mayle

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman congratulated David and Katherine^a Salter on the recent birth of Colin Frank.

Apologies for Absence:- Dr B Wakefield, J L Girt, Mrs S Girt, P V Stannard, W S Girling, Mrs C A Girling, R Gates,

Minutes:- The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 1998 had been distributed prior to the meeting. These were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:- Grant application from Easton - no further details or communication has been received since the last meeting.

Financial Statement:- In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman presented to the meeting a financial statement for the year to 15 July 1998 and notes prepared by the Treasurer. The General Fund had a balance of £134 and the Restoration Fund an uncommitted balance of £5140. Approximately £1100 of income was due to be added to both the General Fund and Restoration Fund before the end of the year. New receipt books are required and are included in the Administration costs.

M Rose questioned the small amount listed for covenants, the Chairman explained that as covenants were running out efforts were needed to ensure people completed a new form. S Pettman suggested that covenant forms be sent out with the next Guild newsletter but it was felt that it would be more fruitful if District Secretaries had a stock of forms and asked people to complete them when they paid their subscription, the Chairman agreed to speak to the Treasurer about this matter. M Rose asked if it was possible for the District Secretaries to have a list of members with covenants, the Chairman agreed to ask the Treasurer if this could be done.

The Ringing Master reported that Mrs S Munnings had raised over £200 for the Restoration Fund from car boot sales and proposed that the Secretary write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Guild.

Ringing Master's Report:- The Master passed round an album for members to look at which contained photographs, letters, etc. relating to the Guild dinner at Bury St Edmunds on 18 April. He reported that the account for the dinner at the Athenaeum had not yet been received for payment.

A very enjoyable Veterans Day had been held at Debenham on 8 July and proposed a letter of thanks ~~be sent~~ to Muriel Page.

The Guild outing takes place on 25 July to north Essex and seats are still available. Two offers to host the Guild carol service had been made this year. The venue chosen is Coddham on 4 Dec, ringing 6-8pm, service 8pm, followed by refreshments and prize draw in the Village Hall.

JHR SB
WRIST

The Guild had again attended the Suffolk Show much interest had been shown and was a worthwhile event for publicity of the Guild. S Pettman agreed that this was so and raised concerns that Ralph Earey may be disposing of his "bell".

The Master reported that the ropes at the redundant churches of St Mary Quay and St Nicholas in Ipswich were in need of repair. He proposed that rope be provided from the stock held by the Guild free of charge, this was seconded by M Rolph. S Pettman disputed the need for such repairs given the infrequency of the ringing at those towers and the proposal was withdrawn.

The stock of Guild certificates was almost exhausted and it may be appropriate to update the certificates in design and size. He suggested that the Secretary be asked to obtain quotes for reprinting in its present format and also look at changing to a modern paper size.

A quarter peal had been rung at the Cathedral prior to George Pipe's induction as a lay canon. He proposed that a letter of congratulation be sent to George.

THE SECRETARY WORK

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory:- M Rolph presented a report of a meeting held on 19 May 1998. Nine members had attended and inspections or work was reported at the following towers:-

NE District

Barsham, Mendham, Metfield, Stradbroke, Kelsale, Wilby, Brundish and Thornham Magna.

NW District

Tostock, Market Weston, Stowmarket, Eriswell, Hessel, Bardwell, Hopton, Cotton and Walsham le Willows.

SE District

Iken, Hacheston, Orford, Copdock, Stutton, Holbrook, Ipswich (St Clement), Harkstead and Rushmere St Andrew.

SW District

Little Thurlow, Monks Eleigh, Woolpit and Drinkstone.

He reported that there was no intention to install any bells in the new tower to be constructed at the Cathedral.

Recruitment and Training:- The Ringing Master reported on a meeting held on 3 June 1998. He passed round an album recording the 75th anniversary dinner containing photographs, letters, seating plan, etc. (duplication)

Two simulators have been purchased and are to be installed at Stutton and Stowmarket. Training will in the first instance be provided to R & T reps. New copies of the Double Your Progress and Complaints notes have been issued to Reps.

Teaching Safely seminars have taken place in the NE and SW districts.

The health and safety policy is being worked on.

The arrangements for the training day are in hand.

It was decided that the qualification standard for Guild membership should remain unaltered.

The education policy for the Guild had been agreed.

Information was needed by 30 November 1998 of those bells to be rung for the start of the Millennium to target towers where help is required.

The striking competitions had not gone smoothly this year because of a ~~broken~~ ^{near breaking} rope at the 6 bell and a problem with the chosen method at the 8 bell event. The SW district are the hosts for the event in 1999. There was to be no call change competition this year and alternative use for the Lester Brett trophy is being looked at.

The next meeting is to be held on 23 September 1998.

R Knight questioned the use of a set touch for the 8 bell competition as this did not appear in the rules published in the report and objected to the choice of Little Bob for 1999. T Hughes agreed that he was not happy with the present arrangement and may lead to some districts being unable to ring the method chosen. However the Master said that this arrangement had been agreed by the Management Committee ~~and he~~ as a trial intended ~~this to continue~~ for a couple of years and he intended this to continue.

Central Council Meeting

The Master reported on the meeting held in May at Dublin at which all 4 Guild representatives were present. He referred to the report of the meeting published in the Ringing World and highlighted particular points of interest to the Guild.

There was some query as to which bells in Suffolk are listed for preservation, M Rolph agreed to look into this. *x OBTAIN A LIST TO BE HELD BY THE GUILD.*

Rule C9

The proposed change to this rule in respect of the structure of the Management Committee had been referred back by the AGM.

The Chairman read a report from J Girt in respect of the working party looking at the structure of the Guild, and he suggested that before any further changes are made that we await the final report in detail. M Rose said that he expected a fuller report will be presented at the October meeting. The Master suggested that details should be circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chairman said that it was important that we were seen to be addressing the matters referred by the AGM. Mrs C Colman suggested that an EGM should be held before the next AGM as a follow up to the Stowupland meeting to outline the proposals to the membership before proposing further rule changes.

Applications for Grants

Campsea Ashe, work costing £6,768 to enable the bells to be rung including welding the 2nd. The Master proposed a grant of £700, seconded by M Rolph. R Knight proposed £600 but failed to find a seconder. The sum of £700 was agreed.

Old Newton, work costing £1,600 was being undertaken by the Belfry Advisory Committee. The figure is for materials only and the welding of the treble. S Pettman proposed a grant of £400 seconded by the Master. This was agreed.

Non Resident Life Members

A Mayle put forward for ratification Roger H Abbott of Horspath, Oxford. This was agreed.

Any Other Business

S Pettman reported that a sponsored slim was being done to raise funds for the Hacheston appeal and he urged members to support those taking part.

A Stone informed the meeting that Rev Lawrence Pizzey celebrates his 30th year in the priesthood this year and is holding a service at St Gregory, Sudbury on 29 September. Ringing will be 6.30 - 7.30pm, service at 7.30pm.

R Knight expressed his disappointment that the quarter peal day was the same day as the SW district outing. The Master explained that finding a Saturday where no district events were taking place was very difficult. R Knight questioned the policy of advertising in the RW for district events as it appeared some districts were doing more than others. Several members said that each quarterly meeting could be advertised in one issue only.

M Rose asked what arrangements had been made for the CC meeting to be held in Suffolk in 2000. The Master said that the meeting would be at the Corn Exchange in Bury St Edmunds with a church service at Rougham. He was also looking at an Ipswich walk round the towers and an outing to East Bergholt.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

R. Whiting

17 October 1998