

Meeting of the Management Committee held on Saturday 17 October 1998
at Buxhall Village Hall

Present:- B Whiting (Chairman), D Salter, P Stannard, Mrs K Salter, Mrs S Girt, J Girt, M Rose, Mrs C Colman, W Girling, Mrs C Girling, S Pettman, A Stone, Mrs A M Webb, T Hughes, M Rolph, R Knight, R Whiting, D Webb, A Smith, R Gates, Dr B Wakefield (Secretary).

Apologies for absence:- D Barnard, R Clouston, A Mayle.

Minutes:- The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 1998 were read and approved.

Matters arising:-

(i) Ralph Earey's Demo Bell

The Committee decided that it could not afford to put in a bid for the bell, nor could it take on the commitment that would accompany ownership the bell.

(ii) Guild Membership Certificates

The secretary reported that there will still about 75 blank certificates available for purchase. There were also a number which had been signed by past bishops of the diocese. Guild members would be reminded that they could purchase certificates at £2.50 each plus postage and packing.

Financial Statement:- The balance in the General Fund currently stood at £127, whilst that in the Restoration Fund was £6126. Income from a few more subscriptions was anticipated, but so was some more expenditure.

The Treasurer had produced a list of members who currently covenanted their subscriptions. There were only 54 on the list; many covenants had lapsed.

Andrew Stone offered to compile a list of members names and addresses. This would help in being able to target members individually, rather than through their towers, to attempt to get them to take out a covenant to accompany their annual subscription.

The treasurer agreed to investigate again whether the collection of subscriptions by Direct Debit would be financially viable.

The offer of a restoration grant of £1500 to Troston, made in October 1991 had now technically lapsed. The secretary agreed to contact Troston to point this out and to find out whether the project was still live.

Ringling Master's Report. In his statement the Master reported a very successful Guild outing to West Essex. This had made a small profit, which would be ~~added to~~ added to the Guild's funds.

He noted that the new issue of the Thompson Directory had now been published, but without an entry for the Suffolk Guild.

The Guild Dinner had made a profit of £90. He suggested this should be put into the Jubilee Fund.

Six past Masters of the Guild had rung a peal at Ashbocking to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Guild. An unsolicited peal board commemorating the event had been made at a cost of £160. However the meeting agreed that because

of the poor state of the Guild's General Fund, and because the production of the board had not been sanctioned by the Guild, the Guild should not pay for the peal board. The Master sought the views of the committee with regards to making a donation to the Cathedral's Fund for the construction of a tower to mark the new millenium. He was aware that the Rules did not allow the Guild to make a donation from its restoration fund, and the General Fund was in a precarious state. So he suggested holding special fund raising events during the coming year, with the aim of raising a sum of about £250. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the collection at the next AGM service (subject to the agreement of the PCC of the church concerned) together with a collection made at the AGM itself, be donated to the Cathedral Millenium Tower Fund. Prior notice of this intent would be placed in the Newsletter. The Master expressed his disappointment on hearing that it was possible the Iken bells would not be allowed to be re-tuned as part of the restoration project. However, whilst agreeing, the meeting believed there was nothing that the Guild could do as it had not offered, or indeed been asked, for financial help. It did raise the question of whether the Guild should review its terms under which it offered grants for bell restoration. The current Terms were drawn up and agreed in 1989. The Belfry Advisory Committee agreed to review the matter and report to the next committee meeting.

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory. Winston Girling presented a report of the last meeting of the sub-committee. Six members had attended. He detailed work/problems/queries etc. which had been dealt with for some 22 towers in all four Districts.

Recruitment and Training. A report of the last meeting of the sub-committee was given by the Ringing Master. The Guild now had two ringing simulators. One was now installed at Stutton, whilst the other was being installed at Stowmarket. Two more conversion kits were to be purchased. The total cost to the Guild for the simulators would be £300.

The proposal to plan "method cards" was being dropped, at least for the time being.

The next "safety" seminar would be given in the SE District after its next quarterly meeting.

Sixteen students attended the Training Day. There had been a shortage of helpers in the morning, but plenty of help had been forthcoming in the afternoon. The event had made a small profit totalling £10.

The Guild "Health and Safety" policy would be ready for issue by the next meeting.

A report of the "Ring in 2000" meeting was given.

Surprise practices had been restarted in the NW District.

The next set of "10 Tips" were now ready and would be issued shortly.

Future of the Guild

John Girt distributed to all Committee Members copies of a Consultative Document prepared by the Working Group of which he was convenor. The group had been set up at the request of the Management Committee at its February 1998 meeting, following

the special meeting that had been held at Stowupland earlier that month. The committee were requested to take the document away, to read at leisure.

The Chairman also distributed copies of a document, proposing changes to the Guild's Rules and Constitution, that had been prepared by a group calling themselves "The GK Group of Ringers" convened by Stephen Young.

It was agreed that full discussion of both documents should take place at a special meeting of the Committee to be held at 2:30pm on 12 December 1998. The secretary was requested to obtain Buxhall Village Hall for the meeting, if it was available.

Rule C9 and the Structure of the Management Committee.

This was again deferred, pending the outcome of the above item.

Appointment of sub-committee to plan the CC meeting in 2000.

The Chairman proposed that a sub-committee comprising the Chairman, the four Central Council Representatives and Stephen Young be appointed to plan the meeting on behalf of the Guild. This was agreed.

The Chairman then circulated copies of a draft programme for the event.

Dates of Guild events for 1999/2000

The following days were confirmed.

Management Committee	20 February 1999 19 June 1999 16 October 1999 19 February 2000
AGM	10 April 1999 29 April 2000
Striking Competition	15 May 1999, in SW District
Training Day	18 September 1999
Seminar	16 October 1999
Outing	24 July 1999, to Kent.

Applications for grants.

None submitted.

Ratification of NRLMs.

The meeting ratified the elections of the following ringers as non resident life members of the Guild, which were made prior to peal attempts:-

Ian G Mills	Welling, Kent
Beryl Norris	Farnborough, Hants
Martin J Turner	Farnborough, Hants

Any other business

Catherine Colman offered to investigate the production of Christmas cards for 1999 and Calendars for 2000. She agreed to bring estimates to the February meeting.

Catherine Colman reminded members that the deadline for the Christmas issue of the Newsletter was 7 November. She hoped that this year more Guild members would use the Newsletter to send out Christmas/New Year greetings to their friends and colleagues.

The Chairman read out a letter from the secretary of the NW District seeking clarification about what to do in the future should subscriptions be unpaid by 31 March. It was agreed that until the new requirement of payment by 31 March was well established discretion should be used by secretaries/treasurers, but that they should point out to the person(s) concerned the change in the rule. The Chairman said he would respond personally to the NW Secretary. The newsletter editor offered to place a reminder of the change in the rule in the Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

BK Whiting
20 February 1999.