

**Suffolk Guild Management Committee Meeting
19 June 1999**

Present; Brian E Whiting (Chairman), Stephen D Pettman(Ringing Master), Trevor D Hughes (NE), Alan P Mayle (Peal Secretary), Rolie Whiting (vice president), Alan Moulton (Technical Advisor), Carol Girling (Newsletter Editor), Winston S Girling (Convenor Belfry Advisory Committee), Richard Knight (SW), Alan R Smith (vice president), Katharine J Salter (SE).

Apologies; Ranald Clouston MBE, John and Shirley Girt, Maurice J Rose, Paul V Stannard, Stephen E G Young, Richard Gates.

In the absence of a permanent secretary Katharine J Salter agreed to act as secretary for this meeting.

The meeting opened at 6.00pm.

The chairman welcomed everybody and proceeded by reading the minutes of the last meeting 20 February 1999 which were read, agreed by those who were present on 20 February and duly signed by the chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes of 20 February 1999

Winston Girling reported that Jean O'Riley from Tostock was delighted that we had decided to keep the grant level the same despite the change in contractor and a small drop in the cost of the job.

Brian Whiting reported that we did not know the current position on the guild database which Andrew Stone is attempting to compile.

Brian Whiting also went on to give a brief summary of the afternoon's events (It was decided at the meeting on 20 February to meet at 2.30pm prior to management to discuss potential guild rule changes). Turnout from management committee members had been poor but they were still able to discuss the proposed document and were happy for it to go forward as a proposal to the membership with some minor adjustments;

- item B election of officers, five year restricted term to apply to Guild Master, Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer only.
- C(9) composition of committee structure (management committee), discussion during the afternoon had brought up the suggestion that the committee should consist of the five main officers plus one elected representative from each deanery so to give a greater spread of representation across the guild.
- split the striking competitions into two and delete the reference to the third Saturday in May (to provide the opportunity to hold the competitions on different dates).
- re letter the guild rules so they run on consecutively from the constitution.

This was proposed by Brian Whiting and put to the vote, 10 in favour and 1 abstention..

The meeting decided that the whole document will be published in the next newsletter and will be put to a special meeting on Saturday 30 October 1999.

The meeting will be held at 2.30pm at Stowmarket preceded by general ringing during the morning followed by lunch.

Guild Secretary-Vacancy

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This post was still vacant and all were asked to seriously consider if we knew anyone prepared to take this on.

Correspondence

Hopton- PCC have sent a letter of thanks for the grant of £150.00 towards the rehangng of the two trebles.

Campsea Ashe- Letter was received querying when the payment of the grant would be made as Stephen Pettman and Winston Girling had both inspected the work on 13 April 1999, and no payment had yet been received. Some discussion followed as normally the Technical Advisor and Ringing Master have to approve the grant, but as Ranald Clouston MBE had been involved with the work and Winston Girling and Stephen Pettman were happy with what they found it was agreed to release the cheque.

Financial Statement

Paul Stannard had forwarded two copies of the guild accounts up to 31 May 1999 with a covering letter to the chairman, these were circulated and considered. If expenses remain similar to 1998 it is expected the general fund will break even again this year. The restoration fund currently hold around £14,000 available for grants. It was noted that the guild insurance had not yet been paid, Katharine Salter was able to inform the meeting that David had not yet received any paperwork from the insurers.

ACTION; DAVID SALTER TO CHASE INSURERS

Ringing Masters Report

'What's On' David Salter is still doing this at present but Stephen Pettman expects to take over at some time shortly but at the moment all submissions are to go to David Salter. Who holds the spare copies of the annual report? Stephen had received phone calls from Shirley Girt (SE Secretary) asking if he had any. The meeting felt that these were most probably held by Stephen Young (the Report Editor) Brian Whiting would speak to him. Rolie Whiting pointed out that each of the district secretaries were given twenty spare copies at the beginning of the year to go out in new member packs, it was thought that the SE may have run out due to a large number of new members.

ACTION; BRIAN WHITING TO SPEAK TO STEPHEN YOUNG RE SPARE REPORTS

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory 10 June 1999

New Committee Member; Dr Bruce Wakefield

Inspections carried out at; Friston, Leiston, Elmswell, Palgrave, Campsea Ashe, Nedging, Ipswich St Margaret, Long Melford, Boxford, Bildeston, Shimpling, Tuddenham St Mary.

Inspections to be carried out at; Rendham, Brampton, Wyverstone.

Work done at; Eye, Woodbridge.

Work in progress at; Westhall, Old Newton, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Hacheston, Orford, Iken.

Work to be done at; Burgate, Bedfield, Framlingham, Ipswich St Mary le Tower, Tostock. A discussion also took place about artificial hemp it's properties as opposed to pre-stretched terylene and whether or not it may prove useful.

Next meeting 7 October 1999 venue to be notified.

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Richard Knight asked if the Belfry Advisory Committee had any idea when they would be able to paint the bell frame at St Peter's Sudbury, Winston Girling said that this had not been forgotten but they had not had the time as yet and asked if one of the local ringers could advise the current state of the frame. Some discussion ensued as to whether we could get in a team of people doing community service to do the job but it was generally felt that this maybe unsuitable due to the difficulty of movement around the frame and bells at St Peter's.

Alan Moulton raised the issue of what liability the guild might have in relation to advice given to parishes after inspections were made, i.e. where the bells are in extreme danger of falling should we advise the parish to put something underneath, it was generally felt that we should submit a report to the parish stating the alternatives open to them and leave it to the parish to decide.

Rolie Whiting queried a report in the East Anglian Daily Times about the training of new ringers at Little Thurlow which he thought were hang dead. Alan Mayle was able to advise Rolie that Trevor Bailey had re-hung the bells but there is still some ancillary work to done. The guild has promised a grant of £2,500.00.

Conditions of Guild grants; a draft terminology had been produced.

ACTION; BRIAN WHITING AND STEPHEN PETTMAN TO REWORK TERMINOLOGY

Brian Whiting raised the issue of de-registering the main body of the guild as a charity and continuing with only the restoration fund as a charity as this issue had been raised by Winston Girling at the December 1998 management meeting and asked Winston why he had suggested this. Winston Girling replied that this is what the Norwich Diocesan Association do, and he had been concerned about suggestions made in the consultative document produced by John Girt's group that half the restoration fund be used for education. Winston's primary concern was that subscribers to the affiliation scheme give their donation expecting all of that money to go toward restoration and may not be happy for it to be used for other things.

Brian Whiting consulted Alan Smith to see if in his opinion we have a current problem with the whole guild being registered as a charity, Alan felt that we did not as there is no restriction on expenses, the charity commissioners would have no problem at all with us insuring our members and although the annual report could be conceived as a benefit the charity commissioners accept that we have to produce one.

It was felt that we ought to remain the status quo but perhaps again covenants ought to be pushed as an easy way of boosting our income, and perhaps potential new members ought to be issued with a covenant form before they pay their subscription.

ACTION; ALL MEMBERS TO COVENANT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Recruitment and Training Committee

Matters arising from previous meetings. We knew where there were three simulators but where was the one for the SW and where would it go.

Lapsed members no specific action plan was developed but Stephen Pettman hopes to run a campaign in the press to recall ringers for the millennium nearer the time.

Draft Health and Safety policy agreed.

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Ring in 2000, we needed to pin down what churches were doing what and who was participating in the midday service, if anyone has surplus ringers to let Stephen Pettman know.

Training Day 18 September 1999 Kettleburgh

course	must already be able to ring
Call Changes	Rounds
Plain Hunt	Call Changes
Basic Plain Bob	Plain Bob on the treble
Advanced Plain Bob	Plain courses of Plain Bob by rope sight
Basic Handbells	must have two hands and an understanding of Plain Bob

names to Stephen Pettman by 28 August please, and please could as many people as possible volunteer their services to help.

Some basic handling instruction may also be given to those that need it if helpers and time allows.

Seminar 16 October 1999 Stowmarket

'Modern Teaching Aids' hopefully a hands on experience with simulators and computers. Recruitment and Training representatives can still be contacted with regard to training assistance if people are unable to get local assistance.

Richard Rapior is organising the fun striking competition in 2000, and we believe the SE are also organising their own one.

Guild Carol Service - Stephen Pettman has no intentions of organising one this year.

Next meeting 1 September 1999 at Mary Dunbavin's.

Follow on Stephen Pettman would like to form a sub committee to co-ordinate Ring In 2000, the meeting voted in favour of this.

Central Council Report

Stephen Pettman reported back on the bits relevant to our guild as the rest will be published in the Ringing World, our representatives serve on the following central council committees. Stephen Pettman Composition Committee, David Salter Education Committee and Lawrence Pizzey Peals Analysis Committee. Alan Smith has just stood down from the Bell Restoration Committee after fifteen years.

A resolution was passed which creates a new class of methods acceptable for peals, this means for example Vernon Bedford's Differential Maximus where the plain course runs to 5040 is now acceptable as a differential method whereas before it was classified as a Treble Place method with three hunt bells.

Central Council 2000 Suffolk Update

Brian Whiting has received several offers of help as tellers and stewards for next year's meeting.

Grant Applications

Old Newton

Winston Girling reported back on the current rehangng work at Old Newton, this is being carried out by members of the Belfry Advisory Committee and the guild had already agreed a grant of £400.00 towards the cost of the job. When the original grant offer was made it was expected that the total cost of the job would be £1600.00, but when work commenced it became apparent far more work was required the job is now expected to cost around £4000.00. The parish would like to know if we could consider an additional grant in the light

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of this. Winston Girling added that all the work was being done by volunteers other than work by Soundweld (welding of the treble) and Tony Baines who made the fittings for 2 3. Stephen Pettman proposed an additional grant of £600.00 seconded by Richard Knight, the meeting voted in favour of this no abstentions or votes against.

Burgate

Winston Girling had received a letter asking about the possibility of grant help as they hoped to ring their bells for the millennium and currently had a band of ringers being taught at Palgrave. This application had not yet been considered by the Belfry Advisory Committee no firm details and prices were given and the parish only appeared to have obtained one opinion from Tony Baines. The meeting decided that they would like to see further details of this considered by the Belfry Advisory Committee and we would like to see another two quotes.

**ACTION; WINSTON GIRLING TO WRITE TO PARISH AND ASK FOR THE
EXTRA INFORMATION**

Ratification of Non Resident Life Members

name	home tower	elected on
Stephen V J Bounds	Banham, Norfolk	6.5.99
Mark B Davis	London	9.1.99
Graham A Duke	London	20.2.99
Julia R Cater	London	20.2.99
Terri J Houghton	London	20.2.99
Philip G Clark	Sherburn in Elmet	27.2.99
H David Holland	Wetherby	27.2.99
Peter J Stretton	Wetherby	27.2.99
Roger S Riley	Selby	27.2.99
Thomas R Garrett	Weymouth	5.4.99
Paul K Williamson	Taunton	5.4.99

The meeting voted to ratify all these belfry elections.

**Resolution to open a special bank account to facilitate Central Council 2000
arrangements**

The meeting voted in favour of this with no abstentions and no votes against.

Trevor Hughes raised the question about how much money was sitting in bell funds across the county gaining very little interest and whether there was a better way of doing this. Alan Smith pointed out that these accounts could be lodged with the Diocesan Board of Finance and gain quite a good rate of interest. This raised the important issue of keeping separate accounts for bell funds so they don't disappear into general church funds.

ACTION; BRIAN WHITING TO WRITE A PIECE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Alan Mayle had received a letter from Michael Whitby about a peal rung last year which does not comply with the guild rules due to it's late publication and late payment of peal fee. Was the committee prepared to accept the peal fee and the peal into guild records? The committee felt that this was a one off and agreed to accept the peal.

Alan Mayle also raised the issue of contributors to the newsletter submitting their name to appear with the article, and some discussion ensued relating to one particular article which appeared in the June 1999 newsletter.

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Rolie Whiting queried the new rule requiring all subscriptions to be paid by 31 March, as there are some associate members in his district who always pay in the Autumn would we be prepared to accept their subscription and membership, the committee felt that this would not be a problem.

Carol Girling announced that the deadline for the next newsletter was 7 August 1999.

Winston Girling announced that there are now nearly seventy members of the affiliation scheme including some one bell towers, administration of the scheme is now taking more time due to this but they were still looking for new members and had recently sent out some more mail shots.

Richard Knight queried progress on the plaque to commemorate Leslie Mills at St Peter's Sudbury which Lawrence Pizzey had been dealing with. No-one present was in a position to comment but Alan Mayle said that the Friends of St Peter's were more than happy with the idea and would contribute towards the cost.

ACTION; RICHARD KNIGHT TO SPEAK TO LAWRENCE PIZZEY

Brian Whiting raised the question of whether we should have an active 'youth' policy in the guild to encourage youngsters who are learning to ring, possibly a junior Ringing Master and a special ringing day so they could meet other young people who are learning to ring. Brian also said we ought to consider having an IT officer responsible for updating our web page and other computer based issues.

Brian Whiting also suggested that to improve communication and to prove we do actually do something at these meetings the minutes ought to be published in the next newsletter.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Minutes approved by Management Committee meeting 16 October 1999.

Signed



Brian Whiting, Guild Chairman.

Date: 16 October 1999