

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 22nd February 2003

Present: Brian Whiting, Sandra Pereira, Trevor Hughes, Rolie Whiting, John Taylor David Mulrenan, Robert Scase, Stephen Pettman, Alan Mayle, Eric Bull, Stephen Labedzki.

Apologies for absence were received from James Smith, Matthew Cracknell, Winston Girling, John Pereira, Alan Moulton, Richard Gates,

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been previously circulated, were agreed with the amendment of the title Maintenance Officer to read Chairman of Belfry Advisory Committee in Belfry Advisory Committee report.

Matters arising

80th Anniversary Dinner. 29th March 2003. 71 tickets had been sold and a further 15 people were showing interest. The maximum number that could be catered for was 120. Secretary was asked to contact Bishop Clive and ask that he reply to the toast to the Church and propose a toast to the Guild.

Web site. John Pereira continues to work on this. The new library catalogue was now on the site and further information from the Annual Report would be uploaded.

Database. Still ongoing. Secretary had taken the opportunity of compiling the Annual Report to update the database. Two districts (NE & SE) had received lists of members to check accuracy and get more forms completed.

Unringable towers. Following the letter from James Halsall, Assistant Diocesan Secretary, the Secretary reported that she had written to incumbents of benefices with towers condition 2 or 3 to recommend that they not be rung due to condition of frame and/or fittings. Several parishes had informed the Guild that they chimed the bells, but no challenges to the letter had been received. James Halsall was satisfied that the letter sent had answered his concerns.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Central Council with an enclosure re child protection and bell ringing. There were some useful guidelines included, which the Secretary will forward to the Newsletter editor.

The Central Council Bell Restoration Committee had conducted a survey of bell restoration funds. The Secretary reported that we were average in terms of income per member, and other figures. Secretary will condense the report and either publish it in the Newsletter or make it available at the AGM.

A letter had been received from Bishop Clive accepting the invitation to attend the 80th anniversary dinner.

A letter had been received from Bishop Richard declining the invitation to attend the dinner due to pressure of work before taking study leave.

The Secretary read out a letter from Keith Ashton-Jones, thanking members of the Guild for the card and thoughts on the recent death of his wife, Sue.

Financial Statement

Eric Bull presented the final accounts for 2002. They showed an income/expenditure surplus for the year of £11. He explained that he had misread an account from the Ringing World, and our payments for advertising were much lower than the figure given. Stephen Pettman proposed, and Robert Scase seconded, that £200 be transferred to The Pipe Family Trust Fund for both 2002, in retrospect, and 2003. This was agreed by the meeting. It was agreed that this be mentioned at the AGM.

The Treasurer reported that the income from the Jubilee Fund, which was allocated for maintenance, had not been touched for some years.

The Independent Examiner having passed the accounts, the meeting agreed that they be presented to the AGM.

Subscriptions, fees and donations for 2004.

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that the following be recommended to the AGM. Having been proposed by Trevor Hughes, seconded by Stephen Pettman:

Adult member	£13
Senior member	£6.50
Junior member	£5.00
Associate member	£6.50
NRLM	£6.00
Peal fee	£1.00

Stephen Pettman then proposed and Alan Mayle seconded the following 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

These were agreed by the meeting.

It was agreed that during the coming year we undertake some research to ascertain the effect on the finances of the discounted fee for seniors and, more importantly, the free membership for those over 65 who have been members for 10 years. This latter rule may well have serious implications for future finances. The results of this research will be discussed at the February meeting next year, and recommendations for 2005 subscriptions can then be better based. This decision to be relayed to the AGM this year.

Trustees

The Independent Examiners had requested information about the Guild Trustees. Whilst it was understood that this role was undertaken by the Guild Executive (Chairman, Ringing Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Belfry Advisory Committee), it appeared not to be recorded anywhere.

The Chairman, therefore proposed that we recommend to the AGM that we add Rule A 1.3 to read 'The Trustees of the Guild shall be the Guild Executive, as defined in Rule J 13.' This was agreed by the meeting.

Ringling Master's Report

Other than information about the Dinner, to which drink may not be brought, but a bar will be provided, there was nothing further to report.

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory

A meeting had taken place on February 7th. Report attached.

Recruitment and Training

No meeting had taken place since the last GMC..

Applications for Grants

Three applications had been received: Thurston, Earl Stonham and Wickham Skeith. In the absence of the Technical Advisor and Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee to give advice, Stephen Pettman proposed and Rolie Whiting seconded, that Thurston be granted £4500, Earl Stonham £6850 and Wickham Skeith £2650. With the proviso that these figures could be increased if necessary, the meeting agreed this proposal.

Ratification of Non-resident Life Members

The elections of Paul & Ruth Curtis (Lincoln) and Joanna K Dorling (Plaistow, London) at Stradbroke on 9/11/02 also Jillian E Galloway (Amersham, Bucks) Philip J Earis (Nth Walsham, Norfolk) and Jonathan Hetherington (Over, Cambs) at Ipswich on 11/1/03 were ratified.

Rule Addition

The Chairman proposed the following addition to the rules, with consequent numbering changes to ensuing rules be recommended to the AGM:

Rule E19 to read:

'The Pipe Family Trust Fund shall be used for the encouragement of beginners in the art of change ringing in the Suffolk Guild. The fund will be administered by the Guild Executive.'

As a consequence of this addition, Rules E 19, 20 and 21 will become E 20, 21, 22; rules F22, 23, 24, will become F 23, 24, 25; rules G 25, 25.1, 25.2, 25.3 and 26 will become G26, 26.1, 26.2, 26.3 and 27.

This proposal was agreed by the meeting.

Annual Report

The Secretary reported that this was well under way. Sotherans would again do the printing.

Annual General Meeting

The programme for this would be:

Saturday April 26th 2003

1:00 pm Ringing at Offton

2:00pm Service at Offton

3:00 pm Meeting at Barking

5:00 pm Tea at Barking

Evening ringing at Barking and Offton

Names for tea to Peta Whiting tel: 01449 677766 or email
brianwhiting.kimberleyhall@virgin.net

Secretary to put notice of AGM and Rule additions in Ringing World on April 11th.

Any Other Business

Stephen Pettman reported that Phyllis Marriott, nee Tillett, had died recently and left money to Grundisburgh Church. It was proposed to use the legacy to purchase a new tenor and rehang the fourth.

Rolie Whiting sought clarification of the timing of the Guild striking competition. The draw would be at 2.00. The six bell competition would be at Polstead and eight at Stoke by Nayland.

Rolie Whiting informed the meeting that the Lockwoods would be celebrating their golden wedding in March. Secretary agreed to send a card on behalf of the Guild if informed of the date.

Alan Mayle reported that yet again Michael Whitby had informed him of a late peal. He had written a letter full of profuse apologies, which the meeting agreed to accept. The peal, which included a first pealer, could be included in the report.

The Secretary was concerned that two districts had not given details of 2003 dates for the Annual report. Trevor Hughes reported that NE did not set any as few people turned up for district practices. A reply from NW was awaited.

The Treasurer reported that receipt books were running low. He was instructed to investigate a printer who could supply these.

John Taylor enquired as to whether we could possibly e-mail What's On. He was informed that What's On is on the website and this would be advertised in the newsletter.

The Chairman referred to a letter in the Ringing World from Rod Bickerton referring to an apparent increase in unringable towers in Suffolk. Winston Girling had replied to this and a copy of his letter was available.

Date of next meeting: June 21st 2003 at 6.00pm at Buxhall Village Hall