

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 28th February 2004

Present: Winston Girling, David Salter, Sandra Pereira, John Pereira, Trevor Hughes, Rolie Whiting, James Smith, Alan Moulton, David Mulrenan, Robert Scase, Eric Bull, Richard Gates, Richard Knight, Maurice Rose.

Apologies for absence were received from John Taylor, Ros Keeper.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been previously circulated, were agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Web site. John Pereira continues to keep this up to date. He is at present looking into the possibility of merchandising goods through an Internet shopping service.

Database. Still ongoing.

Long-standing members' service. This was now going ahead on July 18th in Debenham Church. Bishop Richard would be participating. Brian Redgers and David Salter were planning the afternoon's proceedings. There would be ringing before, during and after the service. Invitations would be sent out in May to all members with more than 25 years membership, but all members would be encouraged to attend. The Guild would be ringing a peal on 25th March to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese.

Forum on Conservation. Winston Girling and Alan Moulton had attended this and gave a brief report on the situation re conservation. It seems that if the Code of Practice for conservation of Bells is adhered to then there should be few problems.

Correspondence

The secretary had received a letter from Ian Holland inviting entry to the Ridgman Trophy competition. The Ringing Master was organising a representative band to enter. The competition would take place at St Neot's on June 5th.

Financial Statement

Eric Bull presented the accounts for 2003, which were agreed.

The Accountants had raised a query about the Guild's policy on level of reserves. It was agreed that the treasurer and James Smith would liaise and produce a statement to be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

A query was raised about St Peter's Sudbury fund. Richard Knight requested that it be used to repaint the frame. It was agreed that he would contact Alan Mayle to get quotations. In response to a question about the proposed plaque in memory of Don Mills, the secretary explained that the idea had ground to a halt between the friends of St Peter's and The

Churches Conservation Trust. It was agreed that South West district could look again at the idea.

Richard Gates proposed, seconded by John Pereira, that Winston Girling, as Chairman, should replace Brian Whiting as signatory on cheques. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Subscriptions and donations for 2005

John Pereira proposed and Rolie Whiting seconded that membership subscriptions be held at the current level for 2005. This was agreed by 10 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.

Maurice Rose proposed and James Smith seconded, that the donations to Friends of St Peters, Friends of the Cathedral, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust be held at £50, and donations in lieu of wreaths be held at £25. This was agreed by all.

Maurice Rose thanked the treasurer and auditor for their hard work throughout the year.

Ringling Master's Report

The Ringling Master reported that the Ridgman trophy competition would take place on June 5th. He anticipated having two volunteers from each district, plus himself and the Chairman as the Suffolk team.

There was a peal planned for the 90th anniversary of the diocese.

Two training days were being planned, one for surprise minor in early July, and another beginners' day in September. A meeting of the Recruitment and Training committee would take place on 7th April.

AGM ringing would be at All Saints Sudbury before the service, and St Gregory's and St Peter's afterwards.

He asked for consistency in recording deceased members in the annual report. It was decided to list members who had died during the year. District secretaries to be informed of this decision.

Plans were well in hand for the striking competition at Reydon and Southwold on May 15th.

The Guild executive had met and decided to draw a line over the confusion over eligibility for peal ringing that had dogged the Guild over the past few years. It was decided to start afresh from January 1st and ensure that from then on all peal ringers must be bona fide members of the Guild or properly elected NRLMs. It was suggested that a list of NRLMs be included in the website.

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory

A meeting had taken place on February 6th. Report attached.

Recruitment and Training

Included in Ringling Master's report.

Applications for Grants

Earl Stonham had requested a further grant to extend their original project by augmenting to eight. It was proposed by David Salter, seconded by Trevor Hughes that we allocate £300 to this work.

Parham At present there are three bells which are chimed. Proposed work includes building work on the tower, and buying four new bells to make a six. The cost of the work on the bells is £42000. It was proposed by James Smith, seconded by David Salter, and agreed by the meeting that we allocate £5000 towards the work.

Rumburgh. A quote of £56000 had been received for restoration work at Rumburgh. It was proposed by Richard Knight, seconded by David Salter and agreed by all, that we allocate £4000 to this project.

Mildenhall. The sum of £1000, which had been agreed at the previous meeting, was ratified.

Annual Report

The meeting was informed that Ruth Suggett had reached the pasting up stage on this year's report. It was proposed by John Pereira, seconded by David Mulrenan, that a quotation of £930 from Redpress be accepted. This was agreed by the meeting.

The chairman reported that in future the Annual Report would have to be prepared and submitted to the printers on disc. The preferred software was Quark Express. The committee would have to approve expenditure on this software. It was agreed that we include this item on the agenda for the next meeting, then set up a committee to look in more detail at the content and layout of the report.

Ratification of Non-resident Life Members

The belfry elections of: Richard Bimson and Izabel Thompson on 30th June 2002 at Monewden, Jon Waters of Great Baddow on 13th October 2002 at Hartest were ratified.

David F Chalk of Whittington, Alison and Hillary Chalk of Hurstbourne Priors Hants and David and Ann Jessop of Cheltenham, having moved out of the county, transfer to NRLM status.

Michael H D O'Callaghan who rang a peal at the CC meeting in Bury was ratified as NRLM.

All were proposed by Alan Moulton and seconded by John Pereira

Rule Changes

Following recent discussion on Non Resident Life Membership and free membership for over 65's with ten years' membership, the ringing master, suggested two rule changes for consideration:

Rule H5 would now read:

A person resident outside the Diocese who wishes to be associated with the Guild may be elected a Non Resident Life Member. A one off subscription is payable by such members. Any Non Resident Life Membership ceases if the member takes up residency within the Diocese.

Rule H 2.3 to read:

Persons in full time education and members over 65 years of age shall pay a reduced rate of subscription.

Members over 75 years of age shall pay no subscription.

Rule H 2.4 to be deleted.

It was proposed by John Pereira, seconded by David Salter, and agreed unanimously, that these rule changes be proposed to the Annual General meeting.

The committee was unanimous in agreeing that those between 65 and 75 who have free membership at the moment should continue to enjoy this concession.

Annual General Meeting

The plan for the Annual General meeting to be held at Sudbury on April 17th is as follows:

1:00 – 2:00 pm	Ringing at All Saints (Restricted to resident Guild members)
2:00 pm	Service
3:00 pm	Annual General Meeting
5:00 pm	Tea
6:00 – 6:45 pm	Ringing at St Gregory's
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Ringing at St Peter's

Names for tea to Sue Freeman (01206 262873 or ssnsf@aol.com) by April 13th.

Any Other Business

Alan Moulton queried whether the data Protection Act would be breached if we publish names of NRLMs on the Website. It was felt that there was no problem as no information other than names would be published.

David Mulrenan asked if lapsed members could rejoin on paying a subscription, or should they be re-elected. He was assured the former was adequate.

James Smith mentioned a church which had changed deanery. This meant that they were technically in a different Guild district. He was assured that the tower could maintain its membership of the original district.

James Smith pointed out that the new Church of England Child protection policy document was uncompromising in its attitude to child protection, and could make it almost impossible to have mixed age ringing. It was pointed out that all PCC's should by now have their own policies and tower captains should check their position with incumbents or PCC secretaries.

Date of next meeting: June 19th 2004 at 6.00pm at Buxhall Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Wanda S. Andy
Chairman
19/6/04