

**Minutes of A Special General Meeting of the Guild held at Stowmarket on Saturday
October 31st 1999. At 2.30 pm**

Apologies for absence had been received from Keith and Sue Ashton-Jones, Peta Luckily.

The Chairman, Brian Whiting, opened the meeting by welcoming the 26 members present. (Others joined the meeting during the proceedings) He then went on to thank those members who had provided lunch, and welcomed the new Secretary, Mrs Sandra Pereira, from Stutton.

He then outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to adopt the 1999 Rule Revisions as put forward by the Guild Management Committee. He expressed the hope that this would bring to a satisfactory conclusion an ongoing debate, emphasising that the prime reason for the existence of the Guild was bellringing, and that whist we should not overlook the importance of rules, that they should not get in the way of the fellowship we enjoy.

The proposed rules were circulated in the September newsletter, and the Chairman proposed two corrections to the wording in that document:

Para. J15 should read The GMC may elect or request the attendance of other officers as may be required. (To accord with the note on page 3 of the Annual Report.)

Para. 20 (District rules) The last sentence should commence 'Each district shall also elect a representative from each Deanery.....' (This to accord with Para J9 – constitution of GMC.)

This was carried by 21 votes for, with 5 abstentions.

The meeting then considered all sections of the rules in turn.

Sections A,B,C,D,E brought no discussion.

Section F; in reply to a query, the Chairman confirmed that the number of Handbell Trustees be reduced from two to one.

Section G: The majority for changes to Constitution and Rules was agreed at two thirds, that majority would be in force for the current meeting.

Sections H,I brought no discussion.

Section J :

Para. 9 :The chairman explained that the constitution of the GMC had been reduced to produce a smaller committee but one which offered a wider representation across the whole of the Guild. Stephen Young was concerned that the Committee still remained large and unwieldy and suggested that a return to two representatives from each District would further reduce numbers. Following a lengthy discussion, an amendment was put by Stephen Young, seconded by Winston Girling that 'One elected representative from each deanery' be replaced by 'two elected representatives from each District'

This was defeated by 17 votes to 6 with 3 abstentions.

Para. 15

Concern was expressed by several members that at it stood this paragraph gave the GMC the right to increase its size with no recourse to the membership. Stephen Pettman explained that the object of this paragraph was to allow the GMC to utilise expertise as it was found necessary on a temporary basis. He proposed that the wording be amended to 'The GMC may require the attendance of other officers or members as required.'

This was seconded by Winnie Lockwood and carried unanimously.

Sections K and L brought no discussion.

District Rules

The change to paragraph 20 was reiterated. Alan Mayle, as peal secretary, was concerned that the mechanism for notifying officers of non payment by members did not occur until the new financial year. The feeling was that little could be done about this. It was hoped that the Web site which was in preparation could be used to help with this and similar problems.

Handbells and Striking Competition Rules were accepted.

The chairman proposed that 'The Objects, Constitution and Rules as revised by the GMC be adopted with the amendments to J15 and para. 20 District Rules'.

This was approved by 23 votes for, none against and 5 abstentions.

The new rules would be operational from January 1st 2000

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.30pm