

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday, October 3rd, 2003, at All Saints, Easton at 7.30p.m.

Those present: Winston Girling (chairman) Alan Moulton (technical advisor) Bruce Wakefield, Gillian Wakefield, David Moyse, Chris McArthur George Pipe, David Salter, Michael Rolph, Chris Nunn. Carol Girling took the Minutes and three members of Easton Church were invited to stay. Tony Baines from Diss was also there.

Apologies were received from: Julian Colman, Richard Coe, David Greenfield and Neville Whittell.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending, and welcomed the members of Easton Church and Tony Baines. The reason for holding the Meeting at Easton was because Alan Moulton and helpers had just finished restoring the ring of bells there. Work included securing the frame to new metal support beams and re-hanging the bells with all new gear. Alan and all involved were congratulated for all the hard work which had taken place over many months and the Church also added their grateful thanks.

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting held in June 2003 had already been circulated to members and were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Michael Rolph reported that **Sternfield (4)** have levers, not half wheels and are only fit to swing chime. David Salter mentioned that this tower is not in the Directory of Towers and Alan Moulton will have it included.

District Reports

North East: It was reported that there is some interest in re-hanging **Middleton (5)** David Salter said that the 5th sally at **Redgrave (6)** is too large for the rope guide.

North West: Colin Cook is at present lifting each bell at **Rougham (6)** to clean out and re-pack the bearings. Tony Baines said that it is necessary to be careful because if the seals have gone and there are metal particles present it is likely that the bearings will need replacing. Winston Girling and Carol have attended at **Whepstead (5)** where the tenor was going badly and there was severe knocking from the bearings. It was discovered that on one side of the headstock the bolt securing the hooped gudgeon had sheared and the subsequent movement of the gudgeon had distorted and broken the wheel rim. Alan Moulton has also attended and recommended that all the bells need re-hanging as soon as possible. In view of this the tenor has been repaired as a temporary measure only and limited ringing only advised. Winston and Carol have also spent 2 weeks at **Stowmarket (8)** replacing broken half cotters on the lower ends of the numerous tie rods on the wooden Bowell frame. The work involved moving the tie rods downwards to release the cotters and adding specially made plates to the top and bottom of each rod. This has now stiffened the frame considerably and the bells are easier to ring. George Pipe asked why the ropes are absent at **Hessett (6)** David Salter offered to investigate.

South East: Frank Bloomfield, is now on Committee at **Felixstowe St John (8)** The builders are very slow over finishing the work in the tower and it is now hoped that Frank will be able to get things moving. Chris McArthur said that **Wickham Market (6)** are now Sunday Service ringing following tower repairs, and Tony Baines is to carry out work on the 3 ancient chiming bells at **Gt. Wenham**.

South West: Alan Moulton is still waiting to hear from **Sudbury All Saints (8)** re going ahead with re-hanging the 7th bell which has a badly decayed headstock. George Pipe mentioned that water dripping through a tower roof can do an incredible amount of damage if not stopped. He also spoke about **Earl Stonham (5)** where major restoration is about to take place. Fund raising has passed £40,000 and 2 new bells have been offered. He asked if John Taylor and PCC can be advised on potential push now for 8 bells. Tony Baines said that if less than 8 were to be put in a 8 bell frame initially then it is advisable to leave out the frame sides on the additional framework until the bells are added as this does not then attract VAT on the augmentation.

Technical Advisor's Report: Nil.

Date and Place of next Meeting: 7.30p.m. Friday, 6th February 2004, at 10, Mitre Close, Woolpit, by kind invitation of Alan Moulton.

Any Other Business: Nil.

The Meeting closed at 8.15p.m. and Easton Bells were then rung at the invitation of the Church, Alan Moulton and Chris McArthur. The inspection for grant was also carried out by David Salter, Guild Ringing Master, and Winston Girling. All present were well pleased with the excellent result of the restoration.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman

AGENDA for 6 February 2004.

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Confirming and signing minutes
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) District Reports NE NW SE and SW
- 5) Technical Advisors report
- 6) Application for Grants
- 7) Date and Place of next Meeting
- 8) AOB