

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000

**Present:** Brian Whiting, Stephen Pettman, Sandra Pereira, Alan Mayle, Barry Pickup, Trevor Hughes, Alan Moulton, Winston Girling, Maurice Rose, Rolie Whiting, Isabel Rivers, Peta Luckly, John Pereira, Eric Bull and Hav Wilkins

**Apologies for absence** were received from Robert Scase, Jonathan Stevens, Owen Claxton, Richard Gates, and Brian Aldous.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members and particularly the new treasurer, Eric Bull.

**The minutes** of the previous meeting, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record.

## **Matters arising**

***Membership and peal records*** - this had been dealt with through the article in the Newsletter.

***SW District simulator.*** Still in hand. David Salter has the simulator working after a technical problem and hopes to have it installed within a month.

***Web site*** - Secretary to pursue those tower correspondents who had not replied to the first letter. This would also give an opportunity to update list of Tower Correspondents. It was decided to put a request in the December Newsletter for District Secretaries through their Deanery Reps. to update tower correspondent and practice night information.

***Les Mills Commemorative Plaque.*** The go ahead had been given for the plaque to be installed at St Peter's. Rolie Whiting undertook to ensure that this is done as soon as possible in conjunction with Richard Knight. A letter would be sent to the Friends of St Peter's thanking them for their approval and asking if they might like to contribute.

## **Correspondence**

***Ridgman Trophy*** - Two letters had been received, from Mary Bone (Essex Association) and Ian Holland (organiser). The first expressed concern over the way the draw for the Ridgman trophy competition had been organised. Secretary to write to Ian Holland to explain problem over clash of dates with our own striking competitions.

***Vice President*** - Rt. Revd Clive Young, Bishop of Dunwich had written to accept

the position of Vice President of the Guild.

A letter had been received from Chris Rogers, Secretary of The Central Council, thanking the Guild for all the hard work that had gone into the Annual Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Members who had acted as stewards felt that they had had an enjoyable day.

### **Financial Statement**

Eric Bull presented a summary of financial details for the year so far.

He reported that the Restoration Fund contained £10,500 and that sums were outstanding to Hacheston, Little Thurlow and Haughley. He received consent for Little Thurlow grant to be paid.

He enquired whether the Jubilee Fund, which raised very little interest could be differently managed in order to make better use of the resource. Winston Girling reported that it had been set up in 1974, as a capital fund, following a bequest from the Beecroft family. Interest earned had been designated for maintenance purposes. It was suggested that the fund be increased by the addition of the interest which, in recent years, had not been allocated to the fund.

He requested that the purchase of badges be written off immediately instead of over a period of time. This was agreed.

A £20 donation in lieu of wreath had been sent in memory of Charles Stannard.

It was decided to circulate all members via Deanery Reps. next year to convert any covenants to Gift Aid pledges, also to ask other members who are tax payers to sign similar pledges. Secretary and Treasurer to liaise on this.

### **Matters Arising from The Annual General Meeting**

**Newsletter Editor** - Bel Rivers agreed to undertake this task from December. Winston Girling agreed to continue to get the Newsletter printed. It was agreed that Eric Bull and John Pereira would ensure that Bel's computer was suitably equipped to receive e-mails.

**Family membership.** Trevor Hughes proposed, seconded by Maurice Rose that family membership was not needed in the Guild. This was agreed.

### **Ringling Master's Report**

Stephen Pettman announced that the Suffolk Team had come second out of eight teams in the Ridgman Trophy competition.

Guild striking competitions. Both six and eight bell competitions had been won by St Mary-le-Tower.

He congratulated David Salter and stewards on the organisation for the Central Council Meeting.

A successful outing had been held for 9.2.19 ringers on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although numbers had been a little disappointing, with only 12 going, they had a good ring on seven towers in the Cambridge area. Sproughton will host a South East district young person's practice in July.

He echoed the concerns expressed at the CC meeting that it was becoming difficult to recruit and retain young ringers, and also mentioned that the 20 to 35 age group was very poorly represented in towers.

The outing planned for August 19<sup>th</sup> to York could not now take place. It was agreed that this be postponed until September 9<sup>th</sup>. Cost would be about £20 for a minimum of 35 participants.

There was a discussion about the Guild striking competitions. The six bell competition not proving as popular as the eight. After some discussion it was agreed that next year, the eight bell would be on 19<sup>th</sup> May, with the six bell on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Both in NW district. This arrangement is dependent on NW being willing to forgo their practice night on the second Saturday in June. Both competitions would start at 6.00 pm with a greater emphasis on creating a social occasion.

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### **Sub Committee Reports**

#### ***Belfry Advisory***

A meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The minutes of which are attached.

Alan Moulton presented two versions of a clause to be included in the conditions of grants. The version which was accepted read:

"New steel bellframes will be grouted into the walls using the traditional method for steel frames, unless otherwise agreed and confirmed in writing by the Guild Technical Advisor, prior to the start of rehanging. An outline specification is enclosed."

Haughley - can now be advised of the grant made last meeting as the above clause has been agreed.

#### ***Recruitment and Training***

A meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Minutes will be published in the newsletter.

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Matters which were discussed included:

SW district simulator. David Salter and Rolie Whiting to liaise.

Health and Safety document. This had not been produced and as it appeared not to be a legal requirement the Master proposed deleting it from the agenda.

A fun striking competition will be held at Stowmarket on September 30<sup>th</sup> David Stanford would advertise. Volunteers were needed to run and judge the event.

Guild Training Day would be 16th September. Grandsire would be added to the courses this year.

Recruitment and retention of young ringers. Anne Brechin was willing to talk to groups of young people to raise awareness and interest in ringing.

Next meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2000

### **Central Council Report**

Stephen Pettman gave a brief resume of the highlights including:

Election to life membership for Harold Rogers who learned to ring in Suffolk.

Election of seven Honorary members - these elected for specific expertise.

Announcement of resignation of General Secretary, and problems over replacement.

Computer co-ordination committee to be renamed ITC committee to update its image and role

Discussion on the nationwide ageing problem in ringing.

Alan Moulton asked how much we had raised by offering bed and breakfast facilities. The sum was nearly £300 for the Restoration Fund.

### **Applications for Grants**

A request had been received from Crawford Allen at Elmsett. They wish to install a six bell frame into which in the first instance they will put four bells, two from St Peter's Ipswich, a new Taylor bell plus their present treble. These will be augmented to six if their appeal is successful. Total quoted for the work on the four bells is £26 311.24 (inc. VAT) . The costs are being kept down by the use of local labour to remove the bells from both towers and assist in hanging the new ones.

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It was proposed by Stephen Pettman that we offer a grant of £3600 towards the cost. This was agreed unanimously.

### **Ratification of NRLM**

The belfry election of Ian Robinson of Quorn at Bury St Edmunds on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1999 was ratified.

A query was raised about peals rung over the central Council weekend. At the proposal of Stephen Pettman agreed these be in the name of the Suffolk Guild.

### **St. Edmund Clapper**

The Chairman displayed the St Edmund Clapper, first awarded in 1991, to the tower doing the most fundraising. Since then it has never been outside Bosmere Deanery. It was suggested that this competition be relaunched for fund raising for the Restoration Fund between April and September each year. A newsletter article would be written to raise awareness,

### **Any Other Business**

The Secretary reported that the stock of badges was low. It was agreed to replenish the stock. Secretary to contact firm, chase up the die and get quotes for more.

Alan Mayle asked for guidance on a late peal, rung in December and sent to Ringing World in May. For the sake of the rest of the band, it was agreed that he write to the conductor asking for reasons that the peal be accepted so late.

Peta Luckily asked of the yellow card which is part of the new members pack could be updated. Stephen Pettman agreed to do this.

Domain name - John Pereira agreed to check on the Internet for a free domain name. Suffolkguild.org or something similar was suggested.

Bel Rivers was informed that extra copies of the Annual report sell for £3.00

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

*B. Whiting*  
*21 October 2000,*