

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 18th October 2003

Present: Winston Girling, David Salter, Sandra Pereira, John Pereira, Trevor Hughes, Rolie Whiting,, James Smith, Mandy Shedden, Alan Moulton, John Taylor, David Mulrenan, Stefan Labedzki, Ros Keeper, Alan Mayle, Jonathan Stevens.

Apologies for absence were received from Robert Scase, Eric Bull, Richard Gates

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been previously circulated, were agreed unanimously, with the correction of two small errors.

Matters arising

Web site. John Pereira continues to work on this. He reported that Stephen Young had agreed to take over being Web master when once he had mastered Web page design. The web address is registered with Supanames, John requested that the Guild pay the £40 fee for this service. It was proposed by Rolie Whiting, seconded by Alan Moulton, and all agreed, that this be paid

Database. Still ongoing. NW membership for 2003 had still not been received. The chairman promised to chase this up as the insurance policy states that only members whose names are held by the Association Secretary are covered.

Bowell papers. These had now been lodged with the Suffolk Record office in Ipswich.

Hand bell. It transpired that there were two Mears handbells held by the Guild library. One large, one small. They had been part of a set of 12 and carried the date Christmas 1910. They had connections with Stradbroke. The whereabouts of the rest of the set were unknown. Winston Girling had agreed to refurbish them, if the Guild would bear any costs involved. The committee agreed to this arrangement.

Davis Mulrenan reported that Sir Robert Hitcham's school in Framlingham had a set of handbells in poor condition that were no longer used. He asked if the Guild would be interested in acquiring them. It was felt that the Guild could not afford the refurbishment needed and they be disposed of elsewhere. It was suggested that Brian Whiting might offer advice.

Long standing members service. The secretary reported that she had received verbal information that the Bishop would be available to participate in a service on June 20th 2004. The Master suggested holding it at Debenham Church, and said that one or more clerical ringers be approached to produce a suitable service.

NRLM Status. John Pereira suggested that we clarify the situation by creating a temporary membership status for non residents who wish to ring peals for the Guild. This would be on an annual basis. After considerable discussion, it was decided that, as records were now being kept more accurately, the present situation should be maintained. Following some discussion on the status of NRLM's moving into the Guild's catchment area, David Salter proposed, seconded by Alan Mayle that Rule B 2.4 be amended to clarify, beyond all doubt

that NRLM's moving back into the area cannot any longer be considered NRLM's. This was agreed by all. David agreed to bring proposed wording change to the next GMC, for ratification at the 2004 AGM.

Future subscription crisis. The secretary produced a graph showing the distribution of members by age. About a half were over 55. As time goes on there will be a considerable proportion of the Guild membership who do not pay a subscription under the over 65 and 10 years membership rule. David Mulrenan proposed, seconded by John Pereira, that in order to avoid a future financial crisis that all members over 65 should be asked to pay a full subscription. Mandy Shedden proposed, seconded by Sandra Pereira an amendment, that "reduced" should be substituted for "full". Following some discussion the proposer and seconder of the original motion agreed to add to their motion, with members over 75 enjoying free membership. The amendment was put to the meeting who passed the amendment by 8 votes to 4. The original motion now reading that "in order to avoid a future financial crisis members over 65 should pay a reduced subscription, with over 75's free," was put to the meeting and passed by 12 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

In order to put this proposal into action a change to rule H 2.3 and 2.4 will be necessary. A wording for this change will be put to the next meeting of the GMC for ratification at the 2004 AGM.

Correspondence

Izabelle Thompson and Richard Bimson, who had rung a peal for the Guild in June 2002, had emailed enquiring why they were not listed as NRLM's in the 2002 Annual report. The Peal secretary agreed to look into the apparent oversight.

Crawford Allen, Churchwarden at Elmsett had written to report that as the church had fallen short on its fundraising, they would be undertaking a reduced refurbishment of the bells. They would not, therefore be taking up the £3000 grant that had been allocated to them, but expressed a wish that should they be in apposition to go ahead at a later date, then the current work be taken into account should a grant be sought then.

A letter had been received from Lord Bridges in reply to the letter sent to him concerning his support in the controversial new Licensing Bill.

A quotation had been received for charity trustee insurance, It was felt that in view of the proposed premium, £210, that this insurance was not necessary.

Financial Statement

In the absence of the treasurer, the secretary presented the accounts to date. In answer to a query about tax rebate, the secretary reported that a claim was in the process of being made. A query was made about the expenditure from the Pipe family trust fund. The meeting was informed that two girls had been supported in order to enable them to attend the Essex Course.

A donation of £400 had been received from Brian Beecroft, the result of the sale of an unwanted set of handbells. This to be put into the Jubilee Fund, which had been set up by his father, who had owned the handbells.

Ringling Master's Report

A training day had been held at Stutton, Holbrook and Harkstead. 17 members had attended on two courses, bob doubles and bob minor. It had been a worthwhile day and feedback from students had been very positive. The master reported the need for courses on basic handling, striking and plain hunting. It was hoped to hold a beginners day in the North east District in early December. There were 10 recruits in the Copdock/Hintlesham area who would be receiving some help.

Sub Committee Reports

Belfry Advisory

A meeting had taken place on October 3rd. Report attached.

Recruitment and Training

No meeting had yet taken place.

Applications for Grants

An application had been received from Parham with details of a proposed renovation costing £42000. Work was also needed on the tower. This application had not been to BAC as it had been received too late. The secretary was instructed to write to the fund raising committee offering a grant (sum not definitely fixed) subject to approval from the next BAC. A precise sum would be agreed at the next GMC.

An application had been received from Mildenhall, again this had not been to the BAC. The church has raised nearly all of the funds required to do the proposed renovation. Alan Moulton proposed and Jonathan Stevens seconded that £1000 be allocated. This was agreed by the meeting with 3 abstentions.

Ratification of Non-resident Life Members

The belfry elections of:

Gabriella L Cowill of Peterborough at Peterborough Cathedral on 21st April, and Andrew J Davey of Clenchwarton, Norfolk at Thornham Magna on 6th October were both confirmed.

Future events

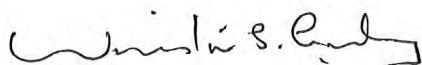
Secretary suggested that some towers could be opened to coincide with the SHCT sponsored bike ride to allow riders to ring as they rode. This to be considered for next year.

Any Other Business

The Chairman intended to attend a Forum on Conservation being held in London. He requested that the Guild support him by paying his train fare. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting: February 28th 2004 at 6.00pm at Buxhall Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.


Chairman
28/02/04