

## Minutes of the GMC meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Stowupland

### Present

Philip Gorrod (Chairman), Jed Flatters (Ringing Master), Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Mandy Shedden (Secretary), Jonathan Stevens (BAC Chairman), Jason Busby (NE Halesworth), Ed Delatte (NE Beccles) Trevor Hughes (NE Hoxne), Alan Stanley (NW Hartismere) Brian Hale (NW Ixworth), Marion Turner (NW Mildenhall) Maurice Rose (NW Thingoe), David Steed (NW Stowmarket) Revd. Brian Redgers (SE Bosmere) Peter Harper (SE Colneys), Robert Scase (SE Loes), Mary Garner (SE Samford), Kate Eagle (SE Woodbridge) Derek Rose (SW Sudbury), Richard Knight (SW Clare), Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh), John Smith (SW Lavenham)

PJG opened the meeting and thanked everyone for arriving at the earlier time, there was very good attendance with almost a full committee.

**Apologies** Sally Munnings (SE Ipswich) Julie Rapor (NE Saxmundham)

### Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October

MR proposed and MG seconded that the minutes from the previous meeting were adopted.

### BAC Report Jonathan Stevens Chairman

We held a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February; with ringing first at Helmingham and the meeting held in the Doberman at Framsdon. Winston and Carol Girling had brought Nathan Coleman with them and he was elected to the committee.

Bruce Wakefield had, after many years valuable service to the team, decided it was time to resign, which resignation was received with regret.

Amongst the fourteen towers discussed, most of which had had practical work done by BAC members during this last period, were Eye, Thornham Magna and Rickingham, where at each tower new pulley boxes made by Winston and Chris Davies were fitted. Pulleys are often overlooked but essential to the go of the bells, the performance of each of these towers will have been much improved.

The next meeting will be at Woolpit on 24 May.

The chairman made it known he would not be standing for re-election at the Guild AGM.

The meeting approved Nathan Coleman's election to the Committee.

PJG advised that he and JJS had met with a solicitor who had advised on tightening up our Terms and Conditions for Grants: this was work in progress.

### Applications for Grants

No new applications have been received

### Feedback from Conference at Wellesbourne

MS reported that she and Becky Munford had attended the Ringing for the Future Conference at Wellesbourne in November. Despite the large amount of publicity previously circulated and the build-up of expectations that it would provide some answers, it was felt that there was nothing new suggested that had not been thought of before in terms of recruiting and retaining new ringers. The seminars relied on feedback and suggestions from the participants rather than information coming from the other direction. Summary notes from all the sessions had been previously circulated and MS felt that if anyone could pick up ideas from them to use when recruiting then they could be useful and she recommended that individual towers should determine if there was anything they might use when recruiting. Information regarding the ITTS had also been passed to the Ringing Master for use in the R&T committee meeting alongside all the other notes that were distributed. There had been a strong emphasis on the recruitment of young people at the conference but this was not necessarily the answer. No mention had been made of the requirement that learners should be available for Sunday ringing and the "church" word was actively discouraged. Feedback from the young people who were at the conference was not representative of youth as a whole because

nearly all delegates were from established ringing families. Although the trip had not been as productive as one might have hoped both of us felt that the Suffolk Guild were more proactive than many other associations so we did leave with a positive outlook on the current situation in our county.

### **R&T Committee Report**

JF brought two proposals to the meeting from the committee.

1. That the Guild adopt and adapt the ITTS scheme initially with 12 willing volunteers training one new recruit each using either an in house teaching scheme or an out of county established teaching centre. Funding for literature for the recruits will be available from The Ringing Foundation.
2. That one copy of the New Ringers Handbook by John Harrison is given to all the towers within the Guild that had an active band of ringers with the possibility that purchase of the book be financed by monies from the Pipe Family Trust Fund.

DR seconded the adoption of the first proposal and the committee voted nem con that the Guild should use an accredited scheme to train teachers.

No support was given to the proposal to purchase the Handbook.

### **Ringing Master's Report**

JF reported that he had continued to circulate the Districts attending meetings and practices where possible since October. He reported that Bailey Day had been a success and five quarter peals had been scored at towers surrounding Leiston. A peal was rung to replicate the one rung at Leiston 100 years previously by the Bailey Brothers. He is in the process of forming a band to represent Suffolk in the Ridgman trophy Competition on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The Guild Striking Competitions will be held at Leiston and Theberton.

### **Treasurers Report**

#### **Overall**

The accounts for 2011 have been finalised and sent to the Report Editor and also to the Examiners.

#### **General Fund**

Leaving aside the final payments relating to the Vestey mini-ring, General Fund income in 2011 was almost unchanged from 2010 with increases in subscription income and peal fees offset by a decrease in sales (primarily of rope). General Fund expenditure increased slightly from 2010. Significant savings were made in the printing of the 2010 Annual Report but these were balanced by increased administration costs and the purchase of the stock of badges.

#### **Restoration Fund**

Restoration Fund income showed a 25% increase over 2010 primarily from an increase in the Gift Aid refund. Donations from a variety of sources also increased.

For the third year running Grant approval at £1,850 was low (£5,500 in 2010 and nil in 2009). The sum now available for allocation to new projects stands at £45,374. Payments of previously allocated grants, totalling £13,750, were made for three projects completed in the year. The amount reserved for grants allocated to projects still in progress stands at £5,200.

#### **Strategy**

The year 2011 was satisfactory from a financial point of view, and after including the handbell insurance and an allowance for inflation, I believe we can fund our routine expenditure in 2012 and 2013. However, any additional expenditure could see us going into the red. I am reluctant to propose an increase in subs. for 2013 in the current climate. We have some £6,300 in the General Fund and I propose that we cover any anticipated small losses in 2012 and 2013 from this balance.

The meeting approved the treasurer's proposal that there be no change in subscriptions for 2013.

#### **Banners**

The proposed designs for three banners to stand with the mini ring had been previously circulated and these will cost about £400 to produce, which coincides with the amount that had been previously budgeted and agreed. A fourth one describing the Vestey Ring will cost a further £150. MG proposed and TH seconded that the purchase should go ahead. The committee all agreed with the proposal.

#### **AGM Arrangements**

All arrangements are in place for the AGM. Unfortunately Brian Meads is not available to speak at the fringe meeting but a replacement has been found.

#### **Districts Committee**

GS reported that the committee were not yet in a position to recommend changes in the constitution to reflect the decrease in the number of Deaneries but discussions were still on-going within the sub-committee.

#### **Guild Dinner 2013**

No firm arrangements have been drawn up but the suggested date is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013. This will be the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

**Mini Ring**-The Guild has again been invited to take the Mini Ring to the Suffolk show on 7/8<sup>th</sup> June and 24 volunteers will be needed to staff it. It was agreed that as last year there will be a 50% subsidiary on the admission price for these volunteers, half to be funded by the Diocese and half by the Guild.

#### **Draft GMC Minutes**

After some discussion MG proposed that the draft minutes from the GMC meetings should be published on the website soon after the meeting. It was agreed that prior to distribution the minutes will be approved by PJG and then passed around committee members for any corrections or omissions before being sent to CG for publication on the Guild website, subject to noting that these were draft and might be amended. This was agreed.

#### **Ratification of NRLM's**

Richard S Salibury from Loddon was ratified as a NRLM of the Guild.

#### **Guild Clothing**

Stephen Cheek has so far accumulated £13 in profits for the Guild from the purchase of 28 garments. Purchasers so far are happy with the quality and service and further details for purchase of a variety of clothing can be obtained on the website and the What's On.

#### **Matters Arising**

The RM has organised the Guild peal week to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the dates cover nine days so he hopes that last year's total can easily be surpassed.

#### **Correspondence**

The Bishop has been asked to ask us to ring for St Georges Day.

#### **AOB**

MR asked that we should send a congratulatory letter to Louis Suggett on his achievement of ringing in a 10,000 peal of Bristol 16 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January

RK asked that we should perhaps look at recording the Sunday Service Ringing of individual towers in the Guild Report. PJG asked everyone to look at the current report to see if any changes could be made to exclude repeated content and to suggest any other information they would like to see included in future reports at the next GMC meeting

Alex Tatlow is going to organise an eight bell band of under 19 year olds to ring in the National Youth Striking Competition at St Pauls in Birmingham to be held on June 30<sup>th</sup>

JF asked the NE District to confirm that all arrangements were in place for the Guild striking Competitions and was assured that they were.

**Next Meeting** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2.15pm STC