

Recruitment & Training Cmte - Minutes

Date:- Sunday 5th March 2017, 2.30pm
Venue:- Stowmarket – The Kings Arms
Attended:- Tom Scase (GRM), Philip Gorrod (NE), Fiona Shuttle (NE), Pam Ebsworth (SW),
Mark Ogden (SE), Jonathan Williamson (SE), Rowan Wilson (NW & chair + minutes)
Apologies:- Neal Dodge (NW), Derek Rose (SW)

1) Welcome to new R&T members

We welcomed Mark & Jonathan from the SE and Fiona from the NE.

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- **Folk East** – this was going to be an agenda item at GMC but they ran out of time so it will be discussed at the next meeting in June. Mark suggested that we could perhaps involve the Handbell ringers of GB at Folk East next time as this could provide another hands-on activity + a possible performance. The mini-ring proved to be a temperamental in the side winds of 2016 so perhaps we need to find a way of securing the side panels at the top?
- **Module 2F** - Rowan reported that Ruth Suggett is Jan Tomlinson's mentor so she is receiving support as she practises the things she learnt on the course
- All other matters arising are to be discussed later in the meeting.

3) Applications for training grants

- **ART Module 1 course** – Jonathan has contacted Graham Nabb about running a course in the SE. A new band is being taught at St Matthew's in Ipswich and he already has five people who would benefit from the course.
- **Future ART courses** – Whilst we recognise the personal benefits to be gained from attending one of these courses (regardless of whether the teacher then goes on to complete the assessments for Module 1), the R&T members agreed that it may be useful to perform some sort of pre-assessment to ensure that the teacher's own handling skills are of a suitable standard to enable them to teach other people to ring.

Action – R&T members to draw up some simple guidelines to be followed before attending an ART Module 1 e.g. what to expect, how to make the most of the experience, pre-course meeting, pre-course practical observation?

4) Feedback re further progress (Module 1 courses Fri 8th and Sat 9th July)

- **Reydon course** – follow up at Aldeburgh planned for Sat 11th March. The teachers will be able to practise their teaching skills with three people from a local youth club.
- **Norman Tower** – Pam has made several trips down to Cavendish where Derek & Pauline are teaching some learners (Rowan has attended one of these practices). Pam is concerned that there are really too many learners and that one of the teachers, who did not attend the Module 1 course, may not be teaching to the required standard. Richard Gates and Richard Finch are currently teaching at Hadleigh so it may be possible to hold a follow-up training day there.

Action – Philip to check which teachers are following the ART assessment guidelines as learners will need to be assessed by an accredited ART teacher if they want to follow 'Learning the Ropes' Pam confirmed that learners can be assessed and signed off by another ART teacher if needed.

5) Future training courses booked?

- **NE** – various dates are already booked including 'Listening and better handling' (Mon 13th March), 'Improving 8-bell ringing' (Fri 8th Sept) and 'Raising and Lowering' (Sat 9th Dec) – these are all as a result of the meetings held in January with tower representatives.

- **NW** – there is a training morning booked at the Norman Tower on Sat 10th June. Also the Horringer ringers are going to be working with the local Scout group and have contacted Rowan for some advice.
- **SE** – there is a training afternoon booked on Sat 1st April at SMLT (Stedman Triples). Jonathan & Mark also reported that St Margaret's, Ipswich are working closely with the local Primary school and that Felixstowe ringers are working with local children and their parents

6) Update from District RMs

- **Philip** –The tower rep meetings were well attended again and the practices and training courses for 2017 have been scheduled in response to their requests.
- **Rowan** – NW practices for 2017 will start with a QP again as this has ensured that there are enough people for the practice afterwards.
- **Jonathan** – it has been a promising start with attendances of around 30 so far. People seem to like the social bit (tea and cakes) but he (& Mark) have plans to maybe include some theory too. This might just be providing some theory books for people to browse or maybe some mini workshops during the practice (this would require 2 people, 1 to run the ringing while the other runs the workshop).
- **General discussion** – how can people be encouraged to progress? They've got to want to do it themselves but perhaps they could be directed to towers/practices where the methods they want to learn/improve are being rung. Some of these may be by invitation only however.

Action - R&T members to produce a tower listing for their Districts. This listing will not be published but could be held by the District Ringing Master or Secretary. They could then give advice if asked or maybe offer the advice if they identify a ringer who shows promise but doesn't know how to make the next step.

7) Any other business

- **Young and up & coming ringers** – Mark has done some research and found that the Guild has 21 ringers under the age of 18. It's a shame therefore that we will not be entering the RW National Youth Striking Competition for 2017. We will have this as an agenda item at the next R&T meeting but Mark will talk to Ruth S in the meantime about any plans already in place to prepare for 2018. Can we perhaps tap into Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh, Schools or possibly the University in Ipswich to recruit some more young ringers.
- **Steps to Bob Doubles** – there has been some 'email tennis' on this subject but there are resources already available on the ART and CCCBR websites. Maybe the R&T members need to promote this literature and perhaps run some theory sessions. Identifying the requirement to 'do some homework' and how much time needs to be devoted to this is also very important.
- **Jargon buster** – should we perhaps provide a document or session to demystify some of the jargon associated with all aspects of bellringing (from handling a bell to terms used in method ringing)?
- **Method resources** – there are a lot of new apps for phones etc so maybe we could provide a crib sheet guide to them?
- **Simulators** – should we put a 'how to' guide for tying a bell/fitting a clapper stay on the Guild website? We probably won't need to write this ourselves as various resources exist already e.g. through ART/CCCB
- **Resources on the Guild website** – there are already several resources on the website which are apparently unused so if we provide these new resources (above) or links to them, we will need to promote their existence!

8) Date and time of next meeting (Sunday 2nd July 2.30). The Kings Arms, Stowmarket (near the railway station)