

Recruitment & Training Cmte – Minutes

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

1) Welcome and apologies

Welcome to Lesley Steed who joins us as the new R&T member for the NW District.

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- Taking the mini ring to events specifically aimed at young people – there will be a Youth Gathering on Sat 29th Sept 2018 (6-10pm) at St Edmundsbury Cathedral where groups of young people are encouraged to ‘have a go’ at new activities. Maybe we could book a slot for the mini ring and possibly combine it with a Norman Tower tour. We should have plenty of time to plan and organise this to ensure that good use is made of the opportunity to promote the Suffolk Guild.

Action – Rowan & Lesley to find out more and report back

- District-led training/practices – some members have asked about possible Guild Training events (run by the R&T cmte) or a R&T ‘hit squad’ to help with the problem of not being able to progress a band due to too many learners and not enough experts. Possible solutions:-
 - Regular District practices run by the DRM – with a particular focus but by invitation
 - Encourage towers to ask for help via DRM – R&T cmte members for that District may offer to help but also other experienced and willing helpers (each District will probably need a different approach). Use Guild email to contact Tower Captains.
 - Investigate setting up a group of people across the Guild who are willing to help (Ely Guild do this)

Action – Tom to work with DRMs

- All other matters arising are to be discussed later in the meeting.

3) Applications for training grants

a) ART Module 1 – 27th Jan 2018. This is now fully booked and Jonathan has managed to fill it with Guild members (he paid up front so the course was already FULL when advertised on the ART website). He is planning to have a pre-course meeting and, with most of the participants being known to him, is confident that they will be able to make the most of the opportunity.

Tom asked members if they agreed that these people should be funded and all were in agreement.

b) Guidelines document to give applicants for Guild training grant (anything to add to Philip’s draft)- some members felt unable to comment on the guidelines drawn up as they had not yet attended a Module 1 course so the document has not gone live yet.

Action – Jonathan & Mark to add their thoughts to the document when they have attended the course in Jan 2018. Others who have attended a Module 1 course to review document.

Jonathan is going to suggest to ART that a You Tube clip telling/showing people what to expect would be useful. He will also encourage mentors from this course to attend future pre-course meetings (if they are willing).

4) Feedback re training courses held (July 2016 courses - progress towards achieving Module 1?)

SW – the teachers have still not fully registered with ART and progress at Cavendish is still slow due to the large number of learners. A follow up course planned for Sept was not held and Woolpit now has a problem with pigeons in the tower so this will need to be sorted out first as the bells cannot be silenced)

NE – Philip has registered a new learner at Halesworth

5) Future training courses planned

a) ART accredited – none planned although Jonathan is hoping to run a Module 2 course in the future (if there is sufficient interest and progress with Module 1)

b) District led training courses for 2018

NE – Philip will be meeting the tower reps again to plan for 2018. He will continue to hold monthly focussed practices although he will probably need to specifically invite people who will benefit as most of the more ‘advanced’ practices have not been well attended this year

SE – Jonathan wants District members to suggest training topics. He will be attending one of John Girt’s ‘Practice without bells’ sessions and may explore this further through the monthly practices

SW – Pam is planning to continue with sessions focussing on handling, confidence building, foundation skills, raising and lowering in Jan, Feb, Mar & June 2018

NW – Rowan will continue with the June training slot at the Norman Tower. She hasn’t decided on a theme yet but might focus on people who are keen to start calling things (using ideas from ART Module 2)

Guild Training – Tom will be re-introducing a Guild Peal week 10-18th Feb and will encourage ‘firsts’

6) Update from District RMs (Philip, Jonathan, Derek, Rowan)

- **Philip** – nothing else to add
- **Jonathan** – the two learners being taught at Sproughton have been doing well. One unfortunately has moved to Australia but she has joined Swan Tower in Perth. He is really keen to form better links with St Margaret’s (Ipswich) when their new bells are returned as the District (& Guild) should be able to benefit from the training facilities (and experience) based here.
- **Rowan** – the 6 week training course held at Horringer with the Scouts went well. She is currently writing up the notes and will be writing a short piece for the Guild Magazine. The Scouts will receive a certificate & badge for completing the course which will be presented by the BSE Mayor later this month.

Action – Rowan to outline the course structure including what worked/didn’t work with a view to offering similar courses in the future (maybe we should consider a Suffolk Guild version of the Scout badge?)

7) Young and up & coming ringers – Mark reported that he almost cancelled the event in July but it was fairly well attended in the end with 8 young ringers (+ helpers) turning up for fish & chips on the beach and ringing at towers in the Felixstowe area. He had difficulty contacting the young ringers but managed to use the Tower Captains at their respective towers in the end. He is planning to hold another event before Christmas (Thurs 21st Dec) based at Horringer (+ Great Barton & Tostock with lunch in Bury).

8) Any other business

a) Training grant money received (The Golden Bottle Trust via Jacky Savage) – £5K has been received. We will need to report on how it has been spent in Sept 2018. Members agreed that we should perhaps ‘think big’ and not just spend the money on ART training courses; ideas included providing a set of suitable training books to each District which could be taken to monthly practices and meetings as a resource and perhaps a dumbbell for each District to be housed in an accessible tower (or maybe a portable one to be shared as required).

Action – All members to consider how this fund could be spent. Jonathan & Rowan to check costs of dumbbell and options available (professional v home-made, portable v fixed).

b) Any progress on resources – Rowan reported that she had checked the training resources currently available on the website. The ‘Ringing Tips’ resources need to be updated with the new Guild badge but there is little else. She handed out some examples available on the ART Smart Ringer website and asked members for their thoughts re whether they were suitable for the Guild website. Another option could be to link to You Tube clips of various aspects of handling a bell etc.

Members also discussed current Phone Apps available which could be either listed on the website or maybe included in an article on training resources for the Guild magazine.

Action - Jonathan & Mark to investigate Phone App options and report back.

c) Listening skills – could we use District striking competitions to ‘coach’ young and up & coming ringers to become the judges of the future? There is a CD available to practise and improve listening skills so this might be another resource we could buy for the R&T ‘Library’.

9) Date and time of next meeting (Sunday 4th Mar)