



**APPROVED Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting held at Halesworth
5 pm Saturday 11 November 2017**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Mike Cowling, (MC) welcomed 20 members to the meeting. He thanked the Rev Bill Mahood, NE District Chaplain, for an excellent service and thanked Tom Scase, Guild Ringing Master, for attending the ADM this year.

The Chairman received apologies from Julia Brown, Graham Dowling, Veronica Dowling, Valerie Eagle-Bott, Michelle Golding, Caroline Guthrie, Hal Humphreys, Granville Lindsay, Lyn Lindsay, Gabrielle Moore, John Packman, Chrissie Pickup, Julia Rapior, Ed Rolph, Michelle Rolph, Jonathan Stevens, Richard Stevens, Ann Williams and Graeme Williams.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous ADM held on 12 November 2016

MC reminded Members that the draft minutes of this meeting were posted many months ago on the Guild website and had been informally reviewed at the District Quarterly Meeting in February 2017.

Suzanne Stevens proposed the minutes as a correct record, seconded by Hugh Spink. The minutes were approved by Members present.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 12 November 2016

There were no matters arising.

4. Review of the year – District Ringing Master

The Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod (PJG), referred to his written report, which had been tabled prior to the start of the meeting.

All District Events had been held in response to suggestions made at the Tower Liaison meetings in early 2017. Around half of the meetings, focusing on entry level ringing, had been very well attended, but the remainder had been less well attended.

Generally speaking, there had been little evidence of progress made during the year, with the exception of two ringers present at the ADM today. Moving to the next level beyond Plain Bob Doubles requires both rope time and homework.

The number of quarter peals rung in the District is disproportionately low, as compared to other Districts. Wenhaston was the leading tower for quarter peals, and congratulations were due to Michelle Rolph for this. No peals have been rung, other than the monthly peals at Aldeburgh.

PJG suggested that he, and tower captains, need to identify those band members capable of developing their skills and provide the necessary impetus and support. This could include encouraging people to take part in quarter peal attempts, with support from other ringers/bands as necessary.

Discussion points from the floor included a suggestion that we need to do more to find out what people want, and that we should run theory sessions in addition to ringing practices. A shortage of conductors was also identified as an issue.

It was agreed that these points would be reviewed again at the forthcoming Tower Liaison Meetings and that the days and times of District Practices should be reviewed.

Suzanne Stevens expressed thanks to PJG for his help during the year and the good selection of events.

5. Election of New Members

Membership application forms were received from the following:

Victoria Emms	Leiston	Proposed	Michael Rolph	Seconded	Hal Humphries
Liam Smith	Blaxhall	Proposed	Mike Cowling	Seconded	Suzanne Stevens
Sean Smith	Blaxhall	Proposed	Mike Cowling	Seconded	Suzanne Stevens
Michelle Pearce	Yoxford	Proposed	Hal Humphries	Seconded	Michael Rolph

The Ringing Master confirmed that their ringing was of a sufficiently high standard.

Hilary Stearn proposed their election en bloc, seconded by Suzanne Stevens.

Members voted on the proposal and approved their election en bloc as members. Their membership forms and subscriptions were passed to the Treasurer.

6. Election of District Officers

Before the election took place, Sal Jenkinson thanked all the officers of the Committee, on behalf of all present, for their efforts during the year. Members showed their appreciation by a round of applause.

The Chairman also thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year and contribution to the successful running of a number of events, including the Guild AGM.

At this point, the Chairman, with the approval of the meeting, handed over the chair to the Ringing Master, for the election of the Chairman.

Chairman

PJG asked for nominations. Mike Cowling was proposed by Suzanne Stevens, seconded by Sarah Plummer. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Mike Cowling was duly elected.

Mike Cowling resumed his Chairmanship of the meeting.

Secretary

Trevor Hughes proposed Kate Gill as Secretary, seconded by Hugh Spink. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Kate Gill was duly elected.

Treasurer

Julie Rapior (not present at the meeting) has indicated her willingness to stand as Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Suzanne Stevens proposed Julie Rapior as Treasurer, seconded by Michael Rolph. The proposal was voted on by Members and Julie Rapior was duly elected.

Ringing Master

Hilary Stearn proposed Philip Gorrod as Ringing Master, seconded by Julie Hughes. There were no other nominations. The proposal was voted on by Members and Philip Gorrod was duly elected.

Magazine Correspondent

Michelle Rolph had indicated that she no longer wished to fill this position. There were no nominations and therefore the position has been left vacant for the time being.

GMC Representatives (5 places)

The Chairman advised the meeting that there are currently five representatives – himself, the Ringing Master, Michelle Rolph (as Guild Report Editor), Jonathan Stevens and Ambrin Williams (Young People’s representative).

The GMC meets three times a year and is involved in formulating policy, expenditure of Guild funds, and responding to national developments.

MC proposed that Philip Gorrod (Ringing Master) and Michelle Rolph (Guild Report Editor) should take two of the five available places.

MC also indicated that he is willing to continue as a GMC representative.

Jonathan Stevens had wished to stand down, but has now indicated that he will remain as a GMC representative, but cannot commit to full attendance.

There were no other nominations for Members to fill the remaining place. Therefore, the Chairman proposed that the four GMC places are filled, and the fifth left vacant for the time being.

Members expressed their approval of these arrangements.

R&T Representatives (2 places)

MC said that the current representatives are Philip Gorrod and Fiona Shuttle. He proposed that they both be appointed as R&T representatives again, and this was seconded by Suzanne Stevens. This was approved by Members’ vote.

Other

MC reported that the current Members co-opted to the District Committee, Trevor Hughes and Richard Rapor, are both willing to continue. Each was proposed by Mike Cowling and seconded by Sal Jenkinson. This was approved by Members’ vote.

7. Reports

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)

Suzanne Stevens said that there is nothing specific to report on behalf of Jonathan Stevens.

There are plans to re-hang Little Glenham bells in a new frame, subject to specification and cost.

Recruitment and Training

PJG said that most of this was covered under the Ringing Master’s report. In addition, the Guild has received a grant of £5,000 to develop ringing in Suffolk.

Suggestions from Members included installing a dumbbell in one of the centrally located towers, together with a simulator.

MC reported that the Guild has a new Young Ringers Co-ordinator – Mark Ogden. A Young Ringers’ outing is being arranged in December.

GMC

MC had nothing specific to report.

8. Harry Archer Trophy

MC explained that, in recent years, the Harry Archer Trophy has been awarded to the team coming second in the method competition of the District Striking Competition. The Committee has considered whether the award should be used to encourage other bands, and to this end, the proposed change to the rules was circulated in advance of the meeting.

'The Harry Archer Trophy will be awarded to the team that has not won either of the other two trophies and which, in the opinion of the District Ringing Master, has given the most impressive performance, taking account of improvement since the previous year's competition and the level of experience of the band.'

Trevor Hughes, who originally donated the trophy, thinks that it should normally be awarded to a call change band, and thus the proposed rule change would permit this.

Philip Gorrod proposed the rule change, as set out above, which was seconded by Julia Johnson. The proposal was approved by Members' vote.

9. Tower Liaison Meetings 2018

Following the success of the Tower Liaison Meetings in 2017, two more will be held in early January 2018:

Thursday 11 January 2018 Yoxford. Ringing from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, followed by meeting at 7.00pm in Yoxford Village Hall.

Saturday 13 January 2018 Fressingfield. Ringing from 10.00am to 11.00am, followed by meeting at 11.00am in Sancroft Hall.

10. Tower Reports

MC asked Members to submit Tower Reports for 2017, following on from similar reports submitted by most towers in 2016. Most towers will be producing a report for their PCC, and it will help raise the profile of ringing.

11. Recruitment Materials

A digest of recruitment ideas had been prepared by Kate Gill, with an acknowledgement that some towers, such as Laxfield, are already very active in some areas, such as engaging their local community.

There was a brief discussion, including the need to train more teachers. PJG said that the ART website has full details of available courses. He also suggested that the Guild could consider subsidising another course locally, providing we have sufficient commitment from budding teachers.

12. Distribution Arrangements for Guild Magazine

The District Committee has considered the most effective way of distributing Guild Magazines, as the current method of having to collect from the Guild Magazine Editor is time consuming and costly in terms of fuel used. Following discussion with Sue Freeman, Magazine Editor, it has been agreed that, in future, Guild Magazines will be posted in bulk to a post office in the District (using cost effective pre-booked postage). The exact details of distribution to individual towers are yet to be determined. However, copies should be left in the tower for visitors to read, as well as distributed to members.

Trevor Hughes suggested that the timing of Guild magazine publication could be changed so that it is just before District meetings.

Action – MC to feed back to Mary Garner

13. Any other business

Richard Rapor fed back from Julie Rapor, District Treasurer, that there are around £120 of District funds, half in cash and half in the District bank account. He asked if this money should be returned to the Guild or be retained by the District?

As most District expenses are claimed back direct from the Guild, it was agreed by Members that the money will be gradually spent until a float of £50 remains. The float can then be reimbursed as and when necessary by claiming from the Guild. No charge for teas at District events will be made.

Simon Dawson suggested that the Guild puts a link to other Guild/Association websites on their website.

Action: MC to speak to Chris Garner about this.

Tom Scase, Guild Ringing Master, said that there will be a Guild Peal Week between 10 and 18 February 2018. Members interested in taking part should speak to him or to Philip Gorrod.

MC advised Members that the Guild Safeguarding Policy has been updated slightly.

He expressed his thanks to everyone who has helped today, or in advance.

14. Date of next Quarterly District Meeting

Saturday 10 February 2018.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.