



**APPROVED Minutes of the North East Quarterly District Meeting held at Reydon
Saturday 10 February 2018**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Mike Cowling, (MC), welcomed 24 members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Catherine Draper, Graham Downing, Philip Gorrod, Granville Lindsay, Lyn Lindsay, Sal Jenkinson, Chrissie Pickup, Sarah Plummer and Peter Twiss.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on 13 May 2017

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Mike Sage and seconded by Trevor Hughes. Members unanimously agreed them as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 13 May 2017

There were no matters arising.

4. Review of the Minutes of the Annual District Meeting on 11 November 2017

MC explained that we cannot formally approve these minutes at this stage, as approval needs to be given at the ADM in 2018.

However, apart from the need to correct the spelling of Downing, the minutes were felt by Members to be a true record.

5. Election of new Members

Membership forms and subscriptions were received from the following ringers:

Dr Christopher Osborn, Metfield	Proposed Martin Fowler, Seconded Peter Twiss
Max Fleming, Aldeburgh	Proposed Richard Rapior, Seconded Trevor Hughes
Sam Strowger, Aldeburgh	Proposed Richard Rapior, Seconded Trevor Hughes
Rosemary Cox, Fressingfield	Proposed Trevor Hughes, Seconded Kate Gill

Trevor Hughes proposed, and Mike Rolph seconded, that Members approve their election en bloc to the Suffolk Guild as Members. Members unanimously approved the election to the Suffolk Guild of the ringers listed above. Their membership forms and subscriptions were passed to the Treasurer.

6. Discussion and approval of Ringing Programme for 2018

A copy of the draft Ringing Programme was given to Members at the start of the meeting. MC explained that normally Philip Gorrod would have presented it.

The Programme has evolved following on from discussion at the recent Tower Liaison meetings and a short Committee meeting. MC emphasised that it is open for discussion today.

There was considerable discussion about the Programme, and the revised format of having district monthly practices at towers across the district, supported by a few booster practices, was felt to be a good approach. Members are encouraged to attend these practices where they feel they would benefit, even if they are not at their home tower. Specific points raised included:

- When the best time to hold booster practices is. Saturday mornings are best for some Members, whereas Saturday afternoons are better for others. It was agreed to alternate mornings and afternoons where possible.
- The idea of a ringing theory session was well supported.
- Whether specific methods should be advertised in advance of the monthly district practices at various towers. Whilst this was felt to be a good idea, it was also felt that there could be risk of putting off some people attending, including members of the local band. Whoever is running the practice will need to be flexible.
- How to ensure that local ringers are not put off attending by 'experts' attending. It was decided that the District should provide 'support' to the monthly District practices.
- Veronica Downing offered Chediston as the location for the proposed call changes and Plain Hunt practice.

Veronica Downing proposed, and Mike Rolph seconded, that the 2018 Ringing Programme be adopted. This was agreed by Members.

7. Training ringers to teach beginners

Following discussion, there was appetite to arrange another ART course. Anyone interested was asked to let Kate Gill know, so we can gauge numbers. Hilary Stearn, Mike Rolph and Veronica Downing indicated they are interested.

Those Members who have already attended an ART course said that there are difficulties in finding mentors, or learners to teach within the required two year time frame. MC said he thought this is a common problem. A combined mentor for the District might be a solution.

Veronica Downing offered to raise this issue with the CCCBR Education Committee.

The Guild is still investigating the possibility of purchasing a simulator.

8. Ringing For Peace

MC reminded Members of the nationwide campaign to recruit 1400 new ringers to replace the ringers lost in World War One. The District should start counting new Members from 11 November last year.

The District plans to ring at every ringable tower over the course of the weekend of 10 and 11 November. We won't be able to cover every tower for the Sunday morning service or lighting of beacons at 7 pm on Sunday 11th, so will need to focus efforts as appropriate.

We may need to gather 'travelling bands' to ring at some towers and work out some viable routes. Towers were also asked to identify towers local to them which they could support.

Work to co-ordinate this will take place over the next few months, but in the meantime, Members were asked to let Kate Gill know of any plans.

MC asked everyone to let their Parish Councils know of their plans. We also need to let the Guild Public Relations Officer, Neal Dodge, know of plans, so appropriate publicity can be produced. Local publicity, arranged by local bands, would also be very welcome.

9. Any other business

Richard Rapor asked if there has been a magazine this winter. This has not been produced as the Guild Magazine Editor has had family commitments.

MC thanked the Reydon team for their hospitality and facilitating an excellent tea. Members showed their appreciation.

10. Date of next meeting

Saturday 12 May – District Striking Competition at Yoxford and short meeting.