DRAFT Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting held via Zoom (Covid-19)
4.30 pm Saturday 14th November 2020

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair, Sal Jenkinson, (SJ) introduced herself and welcomed 30 Members to the meeting. She explained the way in which the meeting would run today via Zoom, due to the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in due to Covid-19. She thanked Tom Scase (Guild Ringing Master) and Neal Dodge (Guild PR Officer) for attending the ADM this year and explained that Rowan Wilson (Guild Chairman) is unable to attend due to a work commitment. Rowan has provided a short Chairman's message via video which will be shown at the appropriate point in the meeting.

The Chair received apologies from 8 Members in addition to the Guild Chairman.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous ADM held on 9th November 2019

SJ reminded Members that the draft minutes of this meeting had been circulated to Members earlier. She asked for any key points of discrepancy. There were none raised and the minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 9th November 2019

Mike Sage asked for an update on the installation of the simulator at Southwold. Philip Gorrod (PJG) responded that Tim Hart from Bury St Edmunds has been appointed to oversee the simulator programme paid for by the Golden Bottle fund. Felixstowe will be the first installation, with Southwold second in line. Initially just one bell will be connected to permit solo practice, with the facility for the others to be connected left in-situ. The Southwold installation is planned during the first quarter or half of 2021.

4. District Ringing Master's Report

The District Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod (PJG) referred to his written report, which had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting. Although there has been no ringing for most of the year, a few QPs were rung at the start of the year, including firsts for Dave Goldstone and Kate Bungay. Some virtual ringing, via Ringing Room, has been undertaken since.

Veronica Downing commented that there has been Covid-19 compliant ringing on four bells at Chediston. Members also heard that there has been Covid-19 compliant ringing at Southwold and at Beccles up to the recent second lockdown.

5. Election of New Members

There were no new Membership application forms.

6. Election of District Officers

SJ handed over the Chair at this point to PJG whilst the election of the Chairman took place. Philip Gorrod proposed SJ as Chairman and this was seconded by Sarah Plummer. There were no other nominations for Chairman and SJ was duly elected and resumed the Chair.

There were no objections to officers being proposed, seconded and voted on en-bloc. There was only one candidate for each position. All of the current officers have confirmed their willingness to

continue, other than Jonathan Stevens who does not wish to continue as a member of GMC due to work and study commitments.

District Chairman
Sal Jenkinson

District Secretary
Kate Gill

District Treasurer
Julie Rapior

District Ringing Master
Philip Gorrod

Magazine Correspondent
Vacant as Guild is not currently producing a magazine

GMC Representatives (5 places)
Philip Gorrod
Sarah Plummer
Dave Goldstone
Julia Brown

There was no nomination for the fifth GMC place, but this can be filled later in the year if required.

R&T Representatives (2 places)
Philip Gorrod
Fiona Shuttle

Other committee members
Trevor Hughes has indicated that he wishes to stand down from the district committee. Richard Rapior and Rona Sporle are willing to stand again.

Veronica Downing proposed, and Mike Cowling seconded, that all of the above officers and committee members be elected. There were no dissensions from Members and therefore they were duly elected.

7. Reports

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)
No written report had been submitted to the meeting. PJG noted that in addition to the progress at Southwold, already reported, that it is expected that the Laxfield bells will be re-hung in the near future and ringable.

Recruitment and Training
PJG referred to his written report, which had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting. He had nothing in particular to add. Tom Scase did not have anything further to add.

GMC
Kate Gill (KG) briefly summarised her written report, which had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

8. Safeguarding

SJ reminded Members that the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) website has useful advice regarding the legislation and best practice associated with safeguarding. She

reminded Tower Captains who have vulnerable adults or children in their bands that they should look at the guidance and undertake the appropriate training.

SJ also said that care needs to be taken around safeguarding issues on social media and when using Zoom.

PJG emphasised the need for all Tower Captains to undertake safeguarding training even if they do not currently have vulnerable members in their band. There was an instance recently of a tower having a youngster wanting to learn, but he/she could not be accepted as the Tower Captain had not had the appropriate safeguarding training.

KG said that she had recently learned from the Guild Safeguarding Officer that the Diocese does not always issue automatic reminders when either C0 or C2 training needs updating.

9. Ringing during Covid-19 and other activities

The Guild Chairman had recorded a short video to be shown at ADMs where she was not able to be present. This was played, but unfortunately there were issues with the audio quality and it was difficult to hear. *Post meeting note – a link to the video has been sent to all NE Members.* KG briefly summarised the contents as the need to ensure that any ringing during the pandemic takes place in full observance with Government regulations and CCCBR guidance; that there have been successful augmentations of rings during the year, and Rowan's ideas for a virtual St Edmund's Clapper competition (see below).

There was a discussion about the different approaches bands have employed to retain members during the Covid-19 restrictions. These included using Ringing Room for simple change ringing, socially distanced tune and changes handbell ringing, including for some services.

Neal Dodge encouraged bands to ring as far as possible within the allowed limits, as local communities appreciate hearing the bells.

PJG suggested that if Members wish to try Ringing Room and don't have a group to ring with, they could be joined into existing Ringing Room practices, or district-based sessions could be held.

10. Inter-district competition

This will be run on a virtual basis between October 2020 and March 2021, with each district competing to see who can raise the most money. SJ asked for suggestions to be fed back to her, but commented that individual towers could take part, or groups of towers, all contributing towards the NE district total.

There was a short discussion about ideas, which including a striking competition via Ringing Room, quizzes, or asking for donations. Recent newsworthy stories, such as the restored Laxfield ring, could feature, perhaps harnessed to existing fundraising events. Neal Dodge undertook to speak to Fiona Shuttle at Laxfield about this.

11. Any Other Business

The district has been asked by the Guild Chairman about whether it would prefer a virtual Guild AGM on 10th April 2021 (assuming Covid-19 restrictions are still in place) or whether it would be better to wait until the date set aside for the Guild Social on 18th September 2021 at Horringer. The general view was that it would be better to wait until September. KG will feed this back to Rowan.

Julia Johnson referred to the nightly tolling at 6 pm in Southwold for the 'Month of Prayer' and suggested it might be possible to obtain sponsorship from the Southwold community.

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 5.38 pm.