



**Minutes of the NE Quarterly District Meeting held at Aldeburgh
5.45 PM Saturday 19th March 2022**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair, Sal Jenkinson, welcomed 17 members to the meeting, including one member from the North West district. She commented how good it is to see everyone in person, and the tea was up to its usual magnificent standard.

Apologies for absence were received from 13 members.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on 14th March 2020

The minutes of the meeting were approved, with no matters arising.

3. Regrouping after the pandemic

There have been a range of attitudes to risk with regards to Covid-19 within the district, with some towers regularly ringing now, and some towers back to open ringing and welcoming visitors.

Sal asked whether we should consider proactive approaches to encourage people to return to ringing. However, it was pointed out that some towers may still be reluctant to welcome people who are not regular members of their bands because of ongoing Covid concerns.

4. Election of New Members

Tom Grady, Beccles. He was proposed as an Associate Member by Kate Gill and seconded by Sarah Plummer. The subscription has been paid. His election as Associate Member was approved and his form and subscription passed to the District Treasurer.

5. District activities

A list had been distributed of district events planned in the coming months. These consist of:

- District ringing at Southwold Saturday 25th June, followed by a Bring and Share tea.
- Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre visit, followed by ringing at Saxlingham Nethergate, Saturday 13th August
- District Striking Competition at Wissett, followed by Quarterly Meeting Saturday 24th September (but see below, now changed to 3rd September). Philip reassured members that there will be flexibility in the rules, to accommodate the longer break from ringing, and that bands will be permitted to ring at whatever level they are comfortable with, which could include rounds as well as call changes, together with methods for the more experienced bands. Philip asked that bands contact him in advance so he can plan the competition and he will send out more information to members over the weeks to come.

- Annual District Meeting Saturday 12th November. The suggestion had been to hold this at Yoxford, but after discussion, it was agreed to look for alternative venues, such as Fressingfield or Halesworth.

Additionally, there is the Guild AGM at Woolpit and Drinkstone on Saturday 23rd April, and the District is hosting the Guild Six Bell Striking Competition at Blythburgh on Saturday 21st May.

The Platinum Jubilee weekend runs from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June, with the Thursday and Friday being bank holidays. The nationwide plans for ringing are still unclear, but the meeting recognised that it will not be possible to cover every tower in the district, at the times recommended nationally. However, towers are encouraged to organise some ringing, and Philip asked members to contact him if they need help.

Since arranging the date of the District Striking Competition, we have been informed that this is the only date that could be found for the Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition and Social. Therefore, it was agreed that the date of the District Striking Competition will be moved from Saturday 24th September to Saturday 3rd September, still at Wissett.

6. District Officers

Sal advised members that she will be stepping down as District Chair at the ADM in November, and does not plan to remain as a member of the District Committee, as she is trying to reduce the number of commitments she has. Kate will be stepping down as District Secretary at the ADM in November, but is willing to continue as a member of the District Committee if this is the wish of members.

Philip is willing to continue as District Ringing Master, but is happy to stand aside if anyone else wishes to take on the role. He too is happy to remain on the District Committee.

Sal referred to the officer role descriptions which have been circulated, and are appended to these minutes, and emphasised that members do not have to be good ringers in order to take on the roles of District Chair or District Secretary, but the Secretary should be a good organiser. The Committee is also seeking additional members to be co-opted between now and the ADM in November.

An email will be sent to Tower Captains to see if they can identify people who would be willing to serve on the committee, or to take on one of the district officer roles.

7. Safeguarding

Sal reminded members of our responsibility to look after each other physically and emotionally. We have a legal duty to look after people. She said that there is a requirement for the necessary safeguarding training to be undertaken by members of bands.

Unfortunately, there is no system for checking whether ringers are up to date with their training. Guidance now recommends that band members should all undertake CO safeguarding training, with C1 being undertaken by ringing masters and tower captains. The training is not difficult and is readily accessible via the Diocesan website, once a personal account has been set up. Parish Safeguarding Officers should be informed of training completed and sent a copy of the certificate of completion.

A note to members will be sent out in this regard.

8. Any other business

The Guild AGM in 2023 will be held in Beccles, on Saturday 15th April, at the request of the Guild. This will be the AGM during the centenary year of the Guild.

The Guild Dinner will be held on Saturday 25th March 2023 in Bury St Edmunds. Again, this will be a celebratory event of the Guild's 100th anniversary.

Sal thanked Richard and Julie Rapor for their help with arrangements for the meeting. She was pleased that the hall has been provided free of charge. She asked members to make a small donation to help cover the cost of fuel.

9. Date of next meeting

Saturday 3rd September 2022 at Wissett, after the District Striking Competition.

The meeting closed at 6:25 PM.