

Recruitment & Training Cmte - Minutes

Date:- Sunday 2nd July 2017, 2.30pm
Venue:- Stowmarket – The Kings Arms
Attended:- Tom Scase (GRM), Philip Gorrod (NE), Derek Rose (SW), Mark Ogden (SE),
Jonathan Williamson (SE), Rowan Wilson (NW & chair + minutes)
Apologies:- Neal Dodge (NW), Pam Ebsworth (SW), Fiona Shuttle (NE),

1) Welcome & apologies

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- **Folk East** – at their meeting in June the GMC decided that they will not be putting together a programme to attend festivals and shows with the mini ring. While the Folk East attendance last year may have been good for PR, it did not result in any new recruits for the Guild.
 - Members then discussed whether we should target more local events where the people attending are more likely to be associated with the church/village/district?
 - JW – the mini ring was used at the SMLT open day recently and was well-used
 - TS – Crettingham bell appeal is an example where maybe the mini ring didn't have as much impact as expected (bellringing promotion overload?)
 - MO – maybe we could target events where young people are likely to attend e.g Scout or Guides
 - RW – can we maybe put together a programme of events to attend under the R&T banner? Maybe a R&T roadshow which we move around the Districts (enlisting their help) each year. The event at Folk East had a strong social element so maybe something like this could replace/supplement the annual Guild Social?
- All other matters arising are to be discussed later in the meeting.

3) Applications for training grants

- **Guidelines to give applicants for Guild training grant** – Philip had jotted down some ideas (see separate sheet). Members discussed whether we should arrange a pre-course observation (by the DRM) before a pre-course meeting (if held) to ensure that Teachers applying to do the ART Module 1 are suitable in terms of their bell handling abilities. As people are probably less likely to put themselves forward for the Module 1, this pre-course observation should be possible to set up.

4) Feedback re training courses held

a) Follow up to Module 1 - NE & SW teachers.

Philip reported that a follow up session had been held at Aldeburgh. The teachers + their learners attended and, although it was a bit manic, it was a worthwhile exercise. If repeated, Philip would try to run it closer to the original course next time.

The SW Training Session (handling style and confidence for teachers) at Woolpit on 3rd June was on tied bells. Tutors: Pam & Paul Ebsworth. Teacher: Derek Rose. Ringers: Penny Rose and Alex Brett-Holt. Each person had their handling observed by the whole group (using ART Learning the Ropes assessment) and also watched themselves on video. (tutors and attendees all found something to work on!!) After a break they worked on handling improvements and also tried the following:

- Effects of shortening and lengthening the backstroke
- Setting at backstroke 10 times
- Ringing without touching the sally
- Taking a rope from another ringer while a bell is in motion
- Regaining control of a dropped and moving rope (Paul demonstrated this but there were no volunteers!!!)

They thought that it would be a good idea to hold a training session at Woolpit once a quarter with September being another handling session for people who couldn't attend in June.

b) District led training courses

SE – Stedman Triples held at SMLT in April. This was held in response to the Stedman triples District Practice held in January. Jonathan did target some specific people and is hoping to get two of them through a QP. Although many of the people who attended are unlikely to be able to practise what they learnt at their home tower, it was a good exercise to help them understand and improve Stedman Doubles.

NW – ‘Improving plain hunt on 5&6’ session was held at the Norman Tower simulator in June. This focussed on the Eye ringers.

5) Future training courses booked?

a) ART accredited - Module 1 planned for early 2018. Lesley Boyle will probably be the trainer so Jonathan planning things with her. Ringers from St Matthews (Ipswich) and Crettingham will be the focus

b) District led training courses

SE – annual course will be held in April each year

NE – several training courses booked mainly in response to the meetings held with tower reps.

SW – Derek is continuing to run the regular training sessions at Sudbury which are open to all.

NW – annual course will be held in June each year. Also working with Horringer to teach a group of local Scouts. This was originally planned for May-July but will now start in Sept.

6) Update from District RMs

- **Philip** – Hal from Yoxford is a real success story (but Philip said he couldn't take any credit). Hal only learnt to ring recently himself but has single-handedly taught the band to ring and they are all making good progress. Perhaps we need to find out what his secret is!
- **Rowan** – NW practices for 2017 have continued to start with a QP and this has ensured that there are enough people for the practice afterwards. The practice held at Eye in April was well attended by local ringers (which is a rarity) and plain hunt was identified as a need (followed up at Training morning held in June).
- **Derek** – Sudbury continues to be the main focus as many towers in the district do not recruit and teach learners. Several returning ringers have also been coming to the Sudbury practices.
- **Jonathan** – has received several referrals via Neal from the website. He is currently teaching some new people at Sproughton; this is not their 'home tower' but the environment here is better for teaching handling skills. Jonathan is also trying to get around the practice nights of all towers in the SE district to help build a picture of how each tower is doing. This is proving to be quite difficult as a lot of towers practise on a Tuesday!
- **General discussion** – could towers with the same practice nights perhaps be persuaded to 'share' ringers or alternate practice nights? This could perhaps be suggested as it has worked elsewhere but it probably won't solve the problem of having enough ringers for Sunday service unless the service patterns or times are different.

7) Young and up & coming ringers – Mark is planning an outing or event w/c 22nd July but is having difficulty contacting the young ringers as he cannot use their personal emails (data protection issues). Cost is also potentially an issue if the event were to include bowling + food. Mark will try to contact the tower captains at the young ringers' home towers.

- **Returning ringers** – is there any way that we can contact ringers who may now have children who could be taught to ring? Mary Garner may have records of these past members.
- **Future focus** – Scouts (see how it works with the Horringer Scouts), Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Striking competition (2018 will be in London).
- **'Talent spotting' practice** – could we perhaps organise a Guild or District monthly practice to attract new and young ringers?

8) Any other business

- Resources to promote on Guild website (can we use Awl a'huld?)
 - Steps to Bob Doubles
 - Jargon buster
 - Simulators ('how to' guide for tying a bell/fitting a clapper stay)
 - Method resources (crib sheet guide to apps etc available)
- How to promote these resources – can we check how often the current (and any new resources) are viewed? Some things will need to be checked and updated (e.g. R&T Top Tips needs the new Guild badge).
- Can the Guild website be made more mobile friendly and can the search option be improved?

Action – RW update Top Tips with new Guild badge and send other resources listed above to Chris G.

All – check through current resources on website (any updates needed). **Mark** – talk to Chris G about search option and can website be made more mobile friendly.

9) Date and time of next meeting (Sunday 5th Nov, 2.30pm). The Kings Arms, Stowmarket