

Recruitment & Training Cmte

Date:- Sunday 2nd June ,11.30pm
Venue:- Stowmarket – The Kings Arms
Attended:- Tom Scase (GRM), Mark Ogden & Jonathan Williamson (SE), Philip Gorrod (NE),
Rowan Wilson (NW & chair + minutes)
Apologies:- Lesley Steed (NW), Pam Ebsworth & Paul Ebsworth (SW), Fiona Shuttle (NE),

1) Welcome and apologies

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes accepted and no matters arising.

3) Applications for training grants – none received. PG commented that it's probably time to run another ART course within the Guild as travel across to Cambridgeshire is quite difficult for some. Now that we know that Module 1 does not have to be the starting point, perhaps we should start with a Module 2a.

4) Feedback re training courses held

a) ART- None have been held.

b) District Training

NE – see Oct mins. Three sessions were planned as a result of the emails sent. Handling – a date was provisionally booked but it has not yet taken place. Plain hunt – this will be happening next week. PB Doubles – two people attended this and one has since rung a QP. Result!

NW & SW– combined session booked at MRDC next week

SE – a very successful session although JW felt that they may not have made full use of the capabilities of the simulator set up. 16 people attended, 8 'learners' and 8 experienced ringers. Rang back 6 'open' with 2nd silenced (working on handling) and treble working individually on Abel (virtual ringers on laptop screen). Useful exercises included shuffling everyone around onto different bells once they had caught hold to ring a method (to move them out of their usual comfort zone) and 'following' a bell ringing plain hunt on the simulator to get the feeling of bell control to hunt up and down.

5) Future training courses planned

a) ART accredited – None

b) District led training courses for 2019

SE – No more planned

NW & SW – Sat 8th June at MRDC

NE – complete sessions (see 4)

6) Update from District RMs (Philip, Jonathan, Paul, Rowan)

Philip – three new learners at Mendham (sadly older people). Charged them £100 which would be used to join Suffolk Guild, buy books etc if they completed the 'course'. Gave them three 2 hour sessions as a taster and they did really well but one was lagging behind a bit and subsequently dropped out. Also doing monthly Surprise Minor QPs.

Jonathan – nothing more to report. Will be standing down as DRM so looking for someone to take on the post.

Rowan – looking forward to joint training session with SW at MRDC. Have been running the usual programme of meetings but recently numbers have been going up which is probably due to the excellent promotion Lesley has been doing using the Guild email system. We are also teaching 3 (now 2) learners at the Norman Tower, integration into the main practice will be a challenge but we're hoping to use the simulator. Rowan is also planning to stand down as DRM as she will have completed 5 years and does not feel that she can give the post the time it needs now that she is Guild Chairman.

7) Young and up & coming ringers

Mark is planning a summer outing using the mini ring + Offton again but will probably focus on young ringers in the SE District as he has more contact with them. He has looked into the possibility of using Guild funds to pay for train tickets.

8) R&T opportunities - events/support

a) Gather 2019 – Sat 28th Sept

The mini ring has been booked for this again. This needs to be set up by 5.30, the event will run 6.30-8.30.

Action 1 – R&T members to confirm availability with Rowan (ideally including young ringer from each District)

Action 2 – Confirm how we can follow up the people who take part (via Church Leaders)

Action 2 – Resources (leaflets with updated focus for young people, stickers, materials used at ART meeting in Worcester RW to ask David Sparling)

Action 4 – Can we make use of a possible link with DofE to ask as a ‘carrot’

b) Taster Day

We were originally thinking of linking this with Suffolk Day (21st June) but this left little time to plan. For 2019 it is probably better to ‘piggy back’ something like the Open Churches/Heritage Open Day or maybe an Open Tower event. In future we should be trying to identify an event each year and maybe try to rotate this around the Districts. The Guild 8 bell striking competition at Debenham in 2018, which coincided with a church event, provided an excellent opportunity to promote bellringing so perhaps we should be identifying and using more events like this.

- 2019 – Halesworth are holding an event as a part of Heritage Open Day. Ipswich SMLT hold an annual church open day (but the date is often difficult to pin down).
- 2020 – use Suffolk day (maybe link with a QP or peal attempt). Also millennium celebrations for St Edmundsbury Abbey (including a family weekend in Abbey Gardens)
- Other opportunities – could we use the leaflet being produced about the bells in Ipswich? Guild events such as the 8 bell striking competition or Social could perhaps be used?

Action 1 – Can any R&T members help with the open day in Halesworth? It would also be useful if someone could bring the SG banners.

9) AOB

a) Golden Bottle applications

We have received one so far from the SW. NE suggested Southwold – have paid them a visit already (attended their tower AGM). The PCC are very keen but fitting silencers might be an issue (due to the age of the local ringers).

Action – DRMs to advertise/suggest suitable towers for the grant.

b) Document to link recruitment & training with Guild grant applications

Rowan did some research and found the following:- (RW to take to BAC mtng)

- HLF – main thrust is to ensure that more people have access to, can learn about and participate in the heritage (who would not otherwise have had the opportunity)
- SG – historically very little guidance has been given on how new ringers are going to be taught for augmentations or new rings of bells (especially if the project leaders are non-ringers).

Possible plans for the future:-

- Ask for a project plan – how are they going to build and maintain their band?
- Don’t pay it all up front – 50%, then 40% after an interim report then 10% on completing (probably not easy to administer + small amounts involved would have less of an impact)
- Encourage them to send someone on an ART course (or link with a qualified ART teacher if the local ringers are not experienced enough to teach).

Comments at R&T

- Project plans– on paper the plan may look good in terms of recruiting and training new ringers but putting the plan into action is another matter!
- We have to make it clear that the recruitment of new ringers is not solely the responsibility of the ringers; the whole church/village community needs to support this very important part of the project plan. A band of ringers might come from further afield and, although they support the practice night, will not have the local links which will help with recruitment.

c) Meeting in Redgrave with BAC

Rowan & Tom to attend and report our findings.

Action – Rowan & Tom to report back to GMC in June

d) Promoting R&T docs after each R&T meeting (July/Nov/Mar after R&T meeting)

Mark suggested that this could perhaps be done on a monthly basis as there are plenty of R&T resources available. Rowan suggested that he might like to take this on as she certainly didn't have the time! In order to cover the members who don't have internet access, perhaps we should target the tower correspondents and ask them to post the resources in the tower (as they do with What's On).

Action – all R&T members to look through the current R&T resources on the Guild website and identify suitable resources to start linking in Nov.

10) Date and time of next meeting – Sunday 3rd Nov 2.30pm