

Recruitment & Training Cmte

Date:- Sunday 31st January 2021, 2pm
Venue:- Zoom
Attended:- Tom Scase (GRM), Jenny Scase (SE), Mark Ogden (SE), Philip Gorrod (NE), Fiona Shuttle (NE),
Maureen Gardiner (NW), Pauline Brown (SW), Rowan Wilson (NW & chair + minutes)
Katharine Salter (Guest)
Apologies:- None

1) Welcome and apologies – RW welcomed Katharine to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes were accepted. Matters arising :-

- Abel licenses – we still need to decide how this will be done (the cost is so small that we will probably buy 4 copies, if we're lucky we might get a discount!)

All other actions completed.

3) Golden Bottle simulators

a) Progress at Felixstowe – lockdown Mk3 has slowed progress again but Jacky (who is now the main contact as Brian Aldous is stepping down as TC) reported that we are waiting for the Priest (Andrew Dotchin) to get the List B permission sorted.

b) Application from Troston – RW reported that we had received an application from Troston. Neal encouraged them to apply and everything seems to indicate that this would be a good venue in the NW District. RW suggested that we vote on this at the next meeting as we are then more likely to then be able to get started and hopefully we'll have Felixstowe to use as an example of how to progress the installation.

c) New procedure to apply for permission to install a simulator – the List B permission is another 'hoop' for us to jump through but this will be the responsibility of the church. RW noted that this might actually be a bonus as they will need to get involved and it won't just be another 'bellringers' project'.

Philip noted that it would make sense if he contacted Southwold re getting List B permission sorted while we wait for lockdown to be lifted. Mark suggested that measurements for cable lengths could also perhaps be taken but RW made it clear that under current lockdown guidelines and rules, this could not really be categorised as essential travel!

Action:-

i) RW to contact Troston to confirm that formal decision will be made in June (but there shouldn't be any problems with their application)

ii) Add a briefing note for churches (re gaining List B permission) to the GB simulator application document -who?

iii) PG to contact Southwold re getting List B permission. **Completed 1st Feb**

iv) RW to contact Tim Forsey re Kedington (for SW GB simulator)

4) Grant applications from towers (consideration of)*

Tom reported that none had been received.

5) Update from District RMs (Philip, Jenny, Maureen & SW)

- **Jenny** – all of the District reps had responded to her request for an update (see attached document). On the whole, bands seem to be keeping in touch and meeting virtually but some members are reluctant/unable to use the technology required for this.
- **Maureen** - (see attached document). The NW ADM held in Nov included a Ringing Room session and these have been held on a monthly basis since then (with, on a positive note, increasing numbers attending). Most bands seem to have kept in touch through existing friendship groups (sometimes spreading across towers and districts) but on the whole, use of RR in individual towers is only just beginning to emerge (probably because we assumed we would be ringing without restriction by now). The new Wheatley Bot feature on RR will hopefully help bands to progress (it rings any 'free' bells). RR is already proving to be a good link between ringers of different experiences (which is actually sometimes harder to do in a real tower situation) as less experienced ringers seem to be more likely to have a go at something new without the pressure of being at a strange tower with a lot of

people they don't know! Maureen would be happy to share her top tips for running a district RR session with anyone else!

- **Philip** – tried to get the members involved in a RR session at their ADM in Nov but had very little interest. There are some patches of activity with Beccles and Halesworth running regular RR sessions and some of the beginners have made good progress. Some ringing did take place when restrictions were lifted over the summer but Philip is concerned that it will be difficult to get the bands back together when we're finally given the 'Go'!
- **SW** – Tim Forsey has set up a RR practice for the Tuesday night ringers (3 from St Greg's 2 from Cavendish and 1 from Lt Cornard). Pauline has started a practice for Lt Cornard - there are 11 ringers there including David and Lynda Lee; they have only held 2 sessions so far so haven't got beyond rounds.

Fiona – the Laxfield ringers live within walking distance of the church so they often 'bump' into each other. Keeping the band together has therefore been a bit easier and the restoration project has certainly helped with there being a focus and jobs to do. Fiona has not tried introducing the new learners to RR yet (to have a go at the theory before they learn how to handle a bell) but she will point them towards the relevant pages on the updated Guild website. The project includes a simulator so hopefully this will enable them to get started a.s.a.p. even if restrictions still don't allow for all bells to be rung.

Katharine – (adding to Jenny's report re Ipswich). As a ringing family they were able to ring at St Lawrence and St Clement's when lockdown was lifted in the summer and over the Christmas period (including the traditional Christmas ringing, covered by Radio Suffolk).

Action:-

- i) Pauline/SW to join the SE RR session on Sat 6th Feb (join Jenny's session?)**
- ii) Districts to publicise monthly 'meetings' in usual way on What's On (NW and SE already doing this)**
- iii) Identify individuals who want to join a RR session but aren't aware of District events already taking place (Note - everyone is already welcome regardless of which District they are in) – DRMs and GRM**
- iv) If there is sufficient interest, set up a Guild RR session (maybe three graded practices for single bell and possibly a handbell session) - DRMs and GRM**

6) Any other business

a) Reorganisation of Guild website – RW reported that is now almost complete with the bulk of the work being done by Chris Garner (thanks to Chris for his patience). The R&T simulator pages have been moved under the 'Resources for Tower' tab but need to be updated as simulator use has changed so much (especially recently).

Mark commented that there were no links to Ringing Room or Handbell Stadium – RW commented that RR could be accessed via the Virtual Hub (Members Tab > Virtual Resources > 5. Other resources > Bellboard) but agreed that this could be made easier (and include Handbell Stadium).

b) Mark commented that we should perhaps be running Guild training sessions via Zoom – RW replied that she felt this was not within her remit as Guild Chairman, and that the District and Guild Ringing Masters could perhaps action this! We could perhaps use the AGM in April as a focus (we have held fringe events in the past).

Action:-

- i) Review three pages relating to simulators and feedback to RW (all R&T members)**
- ii) Make link to RR easier to find & add link to Handbell Stadium- RW**
- iii) Correct typo error for 5. Other Resources - RW**

7) Date and time of next meeting – June 2021 (new GRM to organise)

Meeting ended at 3.30pm

** Applicants must demonstrate to the Recruitment and Training committee that they have initiated, or at least have a credible plan to initiate, the recruitment, training and development of a band of ringers to enable the bells to be rung regularly*