

Minutes of the South East District QDM on Saturday 5th September 2015 at Orford

Welcome; The Chairman welcomed the meeting to Orford, and thanked Rev'd Ruth Hatchett for conducting the service, Stephen Cheek for playing the organ, Peter Harper and John Girt for reading during the service, and to Jane Harper for assisting with pouring cups of tea. The Chairman asked the meeting if they would sign a card for Jimmy Wightman who has been in hospital for some time. The Treasurer said that it is hoped that Jimmy will be back home soon.

Apologies; Apologies were received from Chris McArthur, Mary Garner, Chris Garner, David Potts, Muriel Page, John Taylor and Marian Saker.

Remembrances; There were two members from the District who had passed away since the previous meeting; Mike Warren (Stutton) and Dr John Blatchly (Honorary Member). George Pipe spoke of his memories of both members. The meeting stood in a moments silence in their memory.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Saturday 7th March; The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes; The Chairman commented that many of the matters arising from the minutes concerned the Guild AGM in April, and reported that all had gone well. He thanked George Pipe for his wonderful exhibition of memorabilia, and also thanked all those who volunteered with stewarding the event. All monies raised from this had been donated to the Guild. Peter Harper asked whether all members on the Guild photo had been identified, and whether hard copies could be obtained. The Chairman said that all members on the photo had been identified, and would look into prices of printing hard copies of the Guild photo for members if they wished.

Election of New Members; There were no new members proposed for election. There were two members proposed for ratification. Helen Carter, proposed by Stephen Cheek and seconded by Owen Claxton, and Chris Bennett, proposed by Owen Claxton and seconded by Stephen Cheek. These were carried unanimously.

John Girt stated that the criteria for new members was to be able to ring rounds competently. He wondered whether those new learners on the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme might be better waiting until they had achieved level two' status, as ringing rounds competently was only 'level one' status. John Girt asked if this could be put to the GMC at the next meeting. The Chairman said that he would do this.

Reports;

Ringling Master; The Ringling Master gave a brief report of practices since the previous meeting. There was no practice in April because of Holy Week, but the District did host the Guild AGM on April 11th at Felixstowe. The striking competition in May was held at Monewden, which once again was well attended with eleven teams participating. The June practice was at Helmingham which was quite well attended. July was disappointing, not just because of the low attendance, but also because of a ceased clapper at Iken which prevented those present from ringing. Again, the August quarter peal evening was a success, with three out of four quarters scored. Many thanks to Kate Eagle for arranging the pub again, and to the Ringling Master for arranging the bands.

David Stanford congratulated the Ringing Master on the continued success of the quarter peal evening, and it is something that he looks forward to each year.

Treasurer; The Treasurer said there was not much to report since the previous meeting. There is currently £100.40 in the District account. The Treasurer also said that following discussions with the previous Guild Treasurer (Gordon Slack) that the District would be permitted to keep surplus funds up to £100 until the end of the year in order to keep the District funds being left short. There were roughly twenty subscriptions left to collect from members, and reminders had been sent to these people. If these subscriptions are not paid, then the Treasurer may have to visit these towers to try and retrieve payment. George Pipe thanked the Treasurer for his report, and said that he should not have to remind people to pay their subscriptions as these are due on 1st January.

Stephen Cheek said that he had encountered this problem in the Essex Association, and that members were given until the middle of February to pay their subscriptions. Failure to pay their subscription by this time would result in forfeit of voting rights.

Sally Munnings commented that this would not be an incentive to pay subscriptions more promptly, as many don't attend District or Guild meetings. She also said that it needs to be made clearer that if members are elected at the District ADM in December, then they pay for the forthcoming year.

The Treasurer agreed with Sally Munnings, and hoped to make a more concise list of members, and whether they pay adult, junior or senior subscription. The Treasurer also asked if member who fail to pay their subscription by the end of the year should appear in the Annual Report. The meeting agreed that they should not.

Recruitment and Training; The Ringing Master reported that there had been a meeting of the R & T committee since the last quarterly meeting. Only six members were present. There had been progress in producing a new member's booklet to be included in the new members pack, which Neil Dodge has been working on. There is still more work to be done on updating the old R & T notes, however some are now available on the Guild website. It has also been decided that small bequests for ringing training can be made at the discretion of the Guild Ringing Master and the Guild Treasurer, but larger bequests would have to be passed by the GMC. There is due to be another meeting on Wednesday 9th September. David Stanford asked whether too much time and effort is being put into producing written material, of which much can be obtained online, and whether more time should be put into recruiting people and training teachers to teach learners.

John Girt advocated the ITTS programme as a good way of helping those who would like to teach new ringers in learning new ways of teaching. He has learned a great deal from this himself.

The Ringing Master agreed that it would be good to focus on recruitment and teaching, but wondered whether the Guild Ringing Master would take this on board so close to the end of his five year term.

Roger Coley said that this should be put into place as a Guild initiative, rather than what the Guild Ringing Master decided to do at any given time.

The Ringing Master will feed this back to the committee at the next meeting.

GMC; The Chairman reported that following the previous GMC meeting the level of personal accident cover will be reviewed prior to the policy renewal in 2016. £390 from George Pipe's exhibition has been allocated to the general Guild fund. There has been a change of printers for the Guild Magazine, which should save around £100 per edition. Mary Garner has been appointed Membership Secretary, and will

introduce a new process for distributing membership packs to ensure members receive this in a timely manner. The Guild Secretary will write to the new Bishop to formally invite him to become our President. At the next meeting, the management committee will discuss what constitutes a quorum at meetings.

BAC; The Secretary read a brief report from Chris McArthur. Wickham Market bells were back with new fittings and new headstocks. The clappers on the back two bells were being exchanged, and work is still ongoing with regard to sound proofing. Ray Lewis elaborated that the clappers being exchanged would be lighter, and would improve the 'go' of the back two bells.

Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower, has had the frame painted and the front eight clappers have been rebushed. Ringing should resume here soon.

The Treasurer spoke about the augmentation project at Cretingham, with two Trinity House bells donated to the village being used to cast a new bell. There will be a fundraising event on 29th October at Framlingham College and details will be on the What's On.

Young Ringer's; The Secretary read a brief account from George Salter regarding practices since the previous meeting. There was a twelve bell workshop at Bury St Edmunds in March which was a really good experience for the young ringers. In April, a meeting was held to discuss practices, quarters, events and progressing with ringing. At the meeting, George Salter was formally elected as Young Ringing Master, and Ambrin Williams was elected Young Ringer's Secretary. There have been practices at Offton and Ufford which were well supported, and typically consists of a varied repertoire from call changes to triples and major. Thanks to all those who support practices.

George Pipe asked how old you had to be to be classed as a young ringer? The Chairman said that to qualify in the Ringing World National Youth Competition you had to be eighteen or under. For the practices, there was no upper age limit if you wished to help at practices, but the main focus was on young ringers.

Succession of District Officers; The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Secretary would not be standing for re-election in December, and asked members to try and think of a suitable candidate to replace her. The Chairman said that a job description is available on request. The Secretary said that in December there needs to be somebody to replace her, as she could not offer to carry on until a replacement is found. The Secretary has offered to compile information for the report to make the transition easier.

John Girt said that anyone wishing to take on the position should not be intimidated, and that if they asked for help they would always receive this. The Secretary agreed with this, and offered to help in any way possible to make the new Secretary's job easier. The Chairman also said that the District still needed a Technical Advisor.

District Quarter Peal Fortnight; The Ringing Master reminded members that quarter peal fortnight would run from Saturday 17th October - Sunday 1st November. If you like to ring anything in particular the please contact the Ringing Master.

District Outing; The Ringing Master said that the outing would be on Saturday 7th November, and would be based in Norwich. John Girt asked whether it would be advisable to travel in via park and ride

so that members could walk between towers, to which the Ringing Master said this could be an option, but members could also travel by train.

Any Other Business; The Chairman asked whether the Christmas Ringing in Ipswich would take place again this year. The meeting agreed, and the Chairman asked Jane Harper if she would coordinate this again. Jane Harper agreed to do this, and asked whether members were happy to continue with the same format, to which the meeting agreed. Jane Harper asked that there could be better coordination in distributing ringers evenly around the towers so that all towers are fully manned. Shirley Girt provisionally offered the use of St Margaret's Church to have refreshments afterwards, but there may not be use of the car park at the School.

The Chairman asked whether any members were free next Saturday (12th September) to ring for a wedding at Stutton. Roger Coley reiterated this, as currently two of the band include the Incumbent and the Verger at Stutton. There were no members available to help with this.

Richard Munnings reminded members that the cycling Tour of Britain was coming through the county on Saturday 12th September, and to let him know if members planned to ring at any of the towers on the cycling route.

George Pipe urged the District to make use of the Pipe Family Fund to help fund recruitment in the District in order to maintain the membership of the District. John Girt agreed with this.

John Girt asked whether any ringing would be taking place within the District to mark Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning monarch on Wednesday 9th September. The Chairman stated this had been advertised through 'Richy's Blog' on the Guild website, and that it was up to individual bands to organise ringing themselves.

Stephen Cheek said that there would be an open day at Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower on Saturday 26th September from 10.30am to around 4pm. He also said that ringing here should resume by the middle of September.

Dennis Bugg has an old clapper, a wheel and a piece of old frame available to anyone who is interested.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm. Evening ringing took place at Orford after the meeting.