

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers held on Saturday 2nd April 2005 at Beccles

The Chairman, Mr Winston Girling, opened the meeting and welcomed the 64 members present, He thanked Revd John Beauchamp for leading the service, and also the organist. He also thanked Bel Rivers and Barry Pickup and their band of helpers for arranging the afternoon and providing the tea.

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of members who had died during the past year.

On a happier note he mentioned that two ladies, Katharine Salter and Mary Allum had passed their 1000 peal mark.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Michael and Jennifer Warren, Ralph and Tessa Earey, Mary Garner, Chris Garner, Ruth Suggett, Jonathan and Suzanne Stevens, Stephen Pettman, Owen Claxton, Rolie Whiting, Peter and Sheila Franks, Muriel Page, Robert and Jennie Scase, Ken Brown, Sal Burrows, Angels Cable, Timothy Stanford, Eleanor Houghton, Doug Crooks, Tricia Markery, Josephine Beever, Mary and Robin Allum, Rose Godfrey, Frank and Gwen Bloomfield, Celia Sims, Lorraine Beer, Brian Aldous, Diana Duckery.

The chairman asked the meeting to remember Pat Bailey, Robin Allum who are both suffering long term illness, also Dennis Kiddy who had recently suffered a heart attack.

The chairman presented the St Edmund Clapper to Brian Whiting of Offton, who had raised £250 for the restoration fund, and also mentioned Sally Munnings and Sproughton who had raised £150.

3. Minutes of the 2004 AGM

These had been previously published in the Annual Report. It was proposed by Brian Redgers seconded by John Girt and agreed that these be accepted, with the addition of the statement "Five people did not vote" at the end of item 6. and also the corrected spelling of Clayton in the list of apologies.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Officers' Reports:

Master: David Salter presented the Master's report as printed.

The chairman congratulated the Master on the excellent loyalty service in July 2004 which had seen Debenham church full for the service which was addressed by Bishop Richard.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

Secretary: Sandra Pereira presented the Secretary's report as printed.

This was accepted by the meeting.

Treasurer: Eric Bull presented the accounts as published, highlighting some of the figures. He corrected a small error on page 13, where the figure 10640 be changed to 16400. This year Hopton had been promised £5000 and £4200 had been paid to Rumburgh. There was over £11000 remaining in the restoration fund. It was known that two bequests had been left to the Guild, but no further details were available.

He again reminded members of the benefits of Gift aiding subscriptions.

The meeting approved the treasurer's report and accounts for 2004.

The Chairman thanked both Secretary and treasurer for the hard they had done for the Guild over the past five years.

Public Relations Officer:

The post being vacant for the past year, there was no report.

Technical Adviser and Belfry Advisory Committee: Winston Girling proposed that the report as written by Alan Moulton be adopted. This was agreed.

Richard Knight raised the question of lack of progress on the work needed on the seventh at All Saints' Sudbury. The Chairman reminded the meeting that any work carried out there was the responsibility of the PCC and the Bell Hangers. The Guild could only offer advice, not dictate what should be done.

Librarian: Gillian Wakefield proposed that the Librarian's report as published be adopted. This was agreed.

David Salter suggested that the library should purchase the indexes to Bell News and The Ringing World, at a cost of about £55. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next GMC meeting.

Peal Secretary: Christine Knight proposed that the Peal Secretary's report as written be adopted. This was agreed by the meeting.

Handbell Trustee: Brian Whiting, the trustee gave a verbal report reminding members that there are handbell sets in SW (with Winnie Lockwood) and NE districts (with Jonathan Stevens), and two sets in his care. All were in good order, although not used very much. He proposed, that the report be adopted. This was agreed.

6. Subscriptions and fees for 2006:

The GMC proposed that subscriptions and fees for 2006 be the same as for 2005:

Ringling Member	£13.00
Ringling Member over 65	£ 6.50
Ringling member in full time education	£ 5.00
Associate member	£ 6.50
Non Resident Life Member	£6.00
Peal Fee	£ 1.00

Donations

Friends of St Peter's Sudbury	£50.00
Friends of the Cathedral	£50.00
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust	£50.00
Donations in lieu of Wreaths	£25.00

The proposal was seconded by Maurice Rose, and agreed with 62 votes for, one vote against and one abstention.

7. Election of Officers for 2005/2006:

Vice-Presidents: John Pereira proposed, seconded by David Salter, that the Vice presidents as listed in the 2004 Annual report be re-elected en bloc with the exception of Sylvia Pipe who had sadly died recently. This was agreed.

Chairman: Maurice Rose proposed, seconded by James Smith, that Winston Girling be elected as Chairman. Mr Girling was elected,

Ringling Master: Barry Pickup proposed, seconded by Keith Ashton-Jones that David Salter be elected as Ringling Master. Mr Salter was elected

Secretary: John Girt proposed, seconded by David Salter that Mary Garner be elected as Secretary. Mrs Garner was elected.

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary: Eric Bull proposed, seconded by John Pereira, that Keith Ashton-Jones be elected as Treasurer. Mr Ashton-Jones was elected.

Technical Adviser: John Pereira proposed, seconded by John Girt, that Alan Moulton be re-elected as Technical Adviser. Mr Moulton was elected.

Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee: Diana Pipe proposed, seconded by Jackie Savage, that Winston Girling be elected as Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee. Mr Girling was elected.

Public Relations Officer: As there were no nominations for this post, it was left vacant.

Librarian: Sally Munnings proposed, seconded by Geoff Pulford, that Gillian Wakefield be re-elected as Librarian. Mrs Wakefield was elected.

Report Editor: Sandra Pereira proposed, seconded by Maurice Rose that Ruth Suggett be elected as Report Editor. Mrs Suggett was elected.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Ruth for the effort she has put into producing this year's report.

Newsletter Editor: Carol Girling proposed, seconded by Brian Whiting, that Carl Melville be elected as Newsletter Editor. Mr Melville was elected.

Brian Whiting expressed his delight at a younger member taking a role in helping to run the Guild.

Peal Secretary:

David Salter proposed, seconded by James Smith that Christine Knight be elected as Peal Secretary. Mrs Knight was elected.

Auditor: Eric Bull proposed, seconded by Maurice Rose, that Larking Gowen be re-elected as Auditor. This was agreed.

Handbell Trustee: David Stanford proposed, seconded by Jim Whiteman, that Brian Whiting be re-elected as Handbell Trustee. Mr Whiting was elected.

8. Election of Life Honorary Members

Sue Freeman, on behalf of the South West District proposed Ed Hynard for Life Honorary Membership. She mentioned his devotion to good Sunday ringing, his 43 years service to Polstead tower, where he was a skilled teacher of so many ringers, his emphasis on good striking and his encouragement of learners by ringing quarter peals and visiting other towers. Ed had celebrated his 80th birthday a while ago and had decided to move to Guernsey to be near his family. The proposal was supported by Richard Knight and George Pipe. The meeting agreed to his election.

Trevor Hughes, on behalf of the North East District proposed Pat Bailey for Life honorary Membership. Pat Bailey is gravely ill at the moment, but over the years has given devoted service to the Guild, at one point being chairman of the North east District. She was the first lady ringer in Suffolk to reach 1000 peals. The proposal was supported by Barry Pickup and Diana Pipe. The meeting agreed to her election.

9. Election of New Members

It was agreed that the following be elected members of the Guild:

Louis Suggett (Junior) from Pakenham – proposed by Ruth Suggett seconded by Maurice Rose

Coral Fry from Tunstall and Stuart Reader from Bredfield, both proposed by Anne Pilgrim and seconded by Sally Munnings

Janet Lee, unattached south west, proposed by Linda Lee, seconded by Sue Freeman.

10. Date and Venue for 2006 AGM

The 2006 AGM will take place on Saturday April 22nd 2006 in the North West District . The venue had not been confirmed, but it was hoped that Bury St Edmunds would host the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Shirley Girt asked members to inform her of older members who no longer ring nor have contact with many ringers. She will keep them in touch by sending Newsletters.

Shirley Girt asked that service sheets for weddings, funeral or other special events involving ringers should be sent to the librarian.

Gillian Wakefield endorsed Mrs Girt's comments by asking for any items of interest to be sent to her. She also mentioned that she would take commissions for portrait painting to raise funds for the library.

Sally Munnings drew the attention of the meeting to sweatshirts which she had for sale.

Eric Bull put two proposals to the meeting:

1. That Barclays Bank plc continue to be bankers for the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, that Keith Ashton-Jones be authorised correspondent and signatory and that the Chairman and Secretary be authorised as additional signatories, as set out in the Guilds rules. (Rule E12)
2. That the CCLA Investment Management Ltd continue to be bankers for the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, that Keith Ashton-Jones be authorised correspondent and signatory and that the Chairman and Secretary be authorised as additional signatories, as set out in the Guilds rules. (Rule E12)

These proposals were seconded by John Girt, and carried unanimously.

After mutual birthday greetings all round, there was no further business and the meeting closed at 5.17pm.