

Minutes of the GMC meeting held on Saturday 16th October 2010 at Stowupland

Present-: Philip Gorrod (Chairman), Richard Munnings (Ringing Master), Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Mandy Shedden (Secretary), Jonathan Stevens (BAC Chairman), Jason Busby (NE Halesworth), Trevor Hughes (NE Hoxne), Brian Hale (NW Ixworth), Maurice Rose (NW Thingoe), Revd Brian Redgers (SE Bosmere), Peter Harper (SE Colneys), Sally Munnings(SE Ipswich), Derek Rose (SW Sudbury), Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh), Richard Knight (SW Clare) Mary Garner (CPO) Julie Rapor(NE Saxmundham), David Steed(NW Stowmarket), Kate Eagle (SE Woodbridge), Robert Scase(SE Loes), Stefan Labedski(SW Lavenham).

Apologies Alan Stanley, (NW Hartismere) Marion Turner (NW Mildenhall) Bruce Wakefield (PRO)

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th August

Subject to meeting dates corrected MR Seconded PH

Sub- Committee reports

i. BAC

The BAC work continues. Our most recent meeting was at St Lawrence Ipswich on September 30 where George made us welcome even providing some picnic chairs so we all had a seat.

We have two new members; Carol Girling and Martin Croucher. Carol is not only Winston's right hand man but a competent steeple keeper in her own right; having attended the meetings for years, it is only proper that she have a voice at them too. Martin Croucher is a chartered civil and structural engineer who has been available to me informally; I felt we would benefit from having his expertise on the committee too and I am grateful to him for agreeing to join us.

The recent thefts of Campsea Ashe bells from Nicholsons and of a bell from Shotwick are of some concern, especially as we have some parishes with bells on the ground in Nave or porch. When contacting these parishes a typical response is "but they are very heavy" missing the point that that is why they are valuable to thieves. I am not believed when I say I can shift them on my own without any difficulty.

In recognition of the work that Steeple-keepers do throughout the county, we are planning a supper and a speaker in March. It will be held somewhere in the middle such as Stowmarket.

The new members of BAC were proposed and approved.

ii. R& T

Richard Munnings had nothing to report since last meeting but the committee had visited Wickham Market and helped the ringers achieve a qtr peal of bob doubles at Pettistree. A good example of experienced ringers helping the less able. Henham Steam Rally had been very successful. The committee had been more active recently. GS offered more use of his mini ring if it would help for training. PG suggested that a communication network be set up to report back the training committee the training needs of the different towers. This could be done via the deanery reps.

Applications for Grants

None received at the moment

Ringling Masters Report.

Guild Peal week is 19th-27th February and people do need to let RM know what they are doing and if they need help. Volunteers to help ring peals would be much appreciated. Events are being arranged for the 100th Anniversary of RW on 26th March and it would be good to have Suffolk represented in London. George Salter is arranging a young ringers band for national striking competition at Pimlico. He can be contacted through David Salter. Ringers must be under 19.

Treasurers Report

Overall

The last two months have been fairly quiet on the financial front other than the anticipated completion of grant payments to Wissett and to Hopton totalling £9,250.

General Fund

No significant changes since the last meeting

Restoration Fund

Income: Since the last meeting, St Edmunds Clapper income has picked up almost to last year's level. Income from Guild events and Donations is up and the full year outturn in this area will probably show an increase compare with last year's total. Of course, as mentioned last time, total income will be down significantly as a result of the significant reduction in interest rates.

Expenditure

A total of £18,000 has been paid in grants this year.

Allocated balance in the BRF is £18,100

Unallocated balance is £34,700

Strategy

As anticipated by some members at the last meeting, we found the cost of collecting subscriptions by Direct Debit would be quite costly and unlikely to show a benefit overall.

CPO Report.

Mary Garner as Child Protection Officer has drawn up the following advice

If you are teaching or involved with young people you should have CRB check go through Parish Safeguarding Officer or incumbent and they will organise it for you. Free for volunteers. IF 16 and 17 yr olds are teaching they too need a CRB check. Always adhere to safe practice. One CRB disclosure should cover an individual anywhere in Suffolk.

Every tower captain should be in contact with Parish Safeguarding officer to make them aware of the nature of bellringing activity.

Tower Captains should always follow safe practice and ensure a CRB checked person is present, and have at least two adults present. If no PSO go direct to Tim Rogers who is lay CRB Diocesan administrator.

PG proposed that all TC be made aware of our guidance. All agreed.

Ratification of NRLM

Andrew J Leach, Craig J Leach, Diana I Leach, Christopher C P Woodcock, Michael Dew, Jonathan H Potter, Ryan S Noble and Halisi Drysdale were all ratified as NRLMs. The Peal secretary has asked that conductors insure that ringers are members, before they ring the peal.

Library Update

We are still waiting for the Ipswich Record Office to finish cataloguing all the items so that they know what they can and cannot store. Abby has yet to purchase the DVD that was recommended at the last meeting.

Guild Magazine

Alan Stanley had asked printers what the difference price of printing 400 rather than 500 copies but reduction in cost was negligible. Concern was expressed about the number of unread copies lying around in towers. A discussion ensued about the future of the magazine and it was decided to let it run to AGM and let the Guild decide if it was something they wanted.

Guild Social

35 tickets sold already. PG encouraged people to come.

Mini Ring Dedication

The dedication of the new Vestey ring at Bury St Edmunds was well attended and received, the Vestey family and Bishop were very impressed, and there has been a suggestion that it is set up in the Church Tent at next years Suffolk Show. Mary Garner is going to do some display boards for it.

Any Other Matters arising

Handbells Brian Whiting has been in touch with PG and he feels that cataloguing the handbells is not something the Guild should be involved with as they should be included in the church inventory. Advice could be offered with regard to insuring them. MS to write a letter to parishes to suggest that they liaise with JS

Nominations for LHM's

PG asked what qualities does the committee think LHM should have in order to be given this title. The general consensus was that it should be awarded to those who had given outstanding service to the Guild over a prolonged period.

After some lengthy discussion as to what merited recognition, PG suggested that as the GMC has no power of veto over the nominations from Districts, the SE District might reconsider the proposal of John Blatchley in the light of lack of support from the GMC members. He has only been an associate member for 6 months. GS proposed that the GMC write to George Pipe asking him to reconsider his proposal.

Parish Affiliation Scheme

PG asked for a volunteer to take on the task of recruiting more parishes into the scheme, this could be done by a letter outlining the benefits of it which the parish would receive in return for a donation. It was decided that existing members need not be contacted at this stage.

Correspondence

An email had been received from Ruth Suggett -:

The NW District is holding a Young Ringers Day on Thursday 28 October at Bardwell and would like to ask for support from the Pipe family Trust Fund to run this. At present there are four young learners at Bardwell, two at Mildenhall, three at Pakenham, one at the Norman Tower and several other young ringers who are a bit more advanced in terms of the length of time they have been learning but have not yet progressed into confident ringers. The day will run from 11 am to 3.30pm and will offer young ringers the opportunity to get to know each other and hopefully make some new friends who share an interest, use the teaching simulator which has been installed at Bardwell, benefit from one-to-one handling tuition, and maybe try handbells. Our aim is to create a learning atmosphere which is fun and constructive, which also supports their teachers back in their home towers. To give a sense of pride and belonging we propose to produce a T shirt and also provide lunch. Most of the young learners already have a copy of the Sherborne Teaching Aid book but this will also be provided if necessary. We estimate the cost of this day will be approximately £100.

GS proposed a donation of £50 which was approved.

GS had received a Thank you note from Maggie Ross for £30 donation for her training event.

AOB

SF reported that the SW district proposes 6 bell tower Nayland and 8 bell tower at Bures for the Guild striking competition. This was met with approval.

PG reported Wissett bells are ringable but are still in need of some sound control.

There are also some learning to ring leaflets are available to take and use.

Date of Next Meeting Saturday 19th February 10am Old Newton