

Minutes of the GMC meeting held on Saturday 19th February at Old Newton

Present-: Philip Gorrod (Chairman), Richard Munnings (Ringing Master), Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Mandy Shedden (Secretary), Jonathan Stevens (BAC Chairman), Jason Busby (NE Halesworth), Ed Delatte(NE Beccles), Trevor Hughes (NE Hoxne), Julie Rapior (NE Saxmundham) Brian Hale (NW Ixworth), David Steed (NW Stowmarket) Maurice Rose (NW Thingoe), Rev Brian Redgers (SE Bosmere), Peter Harper (SE Colneys), Robert Scase (SE Loes), Mary Garner (SE Samford/ CPO), Kate Eagle (SE Woodbridge), Derek Rose (SW Sudbury), Richard Knight (SW Clare), Alan Stanley (Magazine Editor)

Apologies Marion Turner (NW Mildenhall) Sally Munnings (SE Ipswich), Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh), Stefan Labedzki (SW Lavenham), Bruce Wakefield PRO

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October

Subject to 4 minor amendments, these were agreed.

Sub- Committee reports

Belfry Advisory Committee

With Christmas and the weather, we've not been as busy as usual during this last period.

We held a meeting on 10th of this month at Sudbury St Gregory where Derek Rose made us welcome.

We discussed a number of items. One was the "condition of rings" element of the Guild Report, following some correspondence. The feeling was that we are very proud of the work that has gone into this over the years but would like anyone who feels an entry is inaccurate to share that with us. We do review the listings as we go around the towers and will be adding an item to the autumn meeting agenda to discuss any changes we feel need to be made to individual ratings.

Last year we had two very successful belfry training days; this year we are going to concentrate on individual towers and local teams. Do spread the word, especially amongst those you know would benefit from a little helpful advice.

Of the many towers we have supported financially, the most recent, Wissett and Campsea Ashe are nearing completion.

We also discussed Grant Condition No.9. This is the condition that at present says "Following written officer approval, the grant monies will be paid, usually to the bell hangers or contractors." We wish to add to that the following "For this reason and because any identified deficiencies may not be the responsibility of the bell hangers or contractors, applicants are advised to seek to retain control of sufficient funds to cover any withheld grant the Guild Technical Adviser may authorize. This will ensure that the bell hangers or contractors are not penalized by any withheld grant when its cause is not their responsibility."

We are holding the Steeple Keepers Supper at Stowupland Church Rooms on 19th March, 6 for 6.30pm. This will be a bring-and-share meal and is for all those who do belfry work and their helpmates. It is a chance to talk informally about some of the issues we face and to meet our fellow workers, without whom the bells of Suffolk would soon fall silent.

Recruitment and Training

The R&T Committee would like Deanery Reps to visit towers with ringers in their deanery and report back any identified that would benefit from extra help. RM commented that although no formal activity to report, the towers that had received targeted help were progressing.

Applications for Grants None received at the moment

Ringling Master's Report.

Guild Peal week is happening this week, RM is aware that there are several planned first peals for ringers. He is trying to find judges for the GSC in May.

MR offered a vote of thanks to RM

Treasurer's Report

Overall

Nothing specific to say about 2011 funds so far. The accounts for 2010 have been finalised and sent to the report editor. Paperwork is being prepared for dispatch to the Examiners.

General Fund

General Fund income in 2010, at £4,791 (after transfers to Restoration and Library Funds) represented an 8% increase compared to 2009. Excluding the purchase of the mini-ring, which has distorted the figures, General Fund expenditure was slightly reduced from last year. The production of the Magazine in place of the Newsletter was the only significant increase in expenditure.

Restoration Fund

Income: As mentioned at the last meeting, Restoration Fund income has been affected by low interest rates with interest income this year at just over £300. At 2008 rates it would have been over £3,500. Excluding interest received, and transfers from the General Fund, income at £4,630 showed a 7% increase over 2009.

Expenditure

A total of £18,000 was paid in grants in 2010. Grant approval during the year totalled £5,500 (nil in 2009).

Allocated balance in the BRF is £18,100. Unallocated balance is £35,625.

Strategy

The year 2010 was satisfactory from a financial point of view, and we are not anticipating any major increases in expenditure over the next two years. Providing we can continue to increase our membership, I believe we should be able to hold subscriptions for 2012 at the same level as they have been since 2009.

A quote for printing of the Guild Report has been received from Thurston's of £1047 and considering other quotes received had been considerably higher for the same amount of work, including the one from the current publisher. GS proposed that the quote be accepted by the GMC. This was agreed.

AGM Arrangements

Peter Harper reported that ringing will be only at Henley 3-4pm. Service at 4pm during which handbell ringing will be a feature. Tea in Henley Community Centre. Parking at the Community Hall please. 6.15pm Meeting. Evening ringing to follow and Crosskeys Pub afterwards. Jonathan Stevens wants to arrange a fringe meeting for a debate Restoration v Repair of Bell frames. He is currently arranging this.

Philip Gorrod will be writing to all officers if they want to stand again. RM has reached the end of his office and someone else has agreed to stand as RM. Richard Munnings has agreed to take on PRO.

Mini Ring at Suffolk Show

The mini ring will be going to the Suffolk Show. There has to be enough people to help. On each day we need 12 people. Two bands of six so that the mini ring can be manned all the time. The six people who are not ringing will be able to visit the Suffolk Show. The volunteers need to be good mini ringers and be prepared to stay with the mini ring. Dates are 1st and 2nd June (Weds and Thurs) of half term. The Diocese has offered to pay for three tickets for each day. PJG proposed that the Guild should subsidise the event to the extent that helpers be asked to pay half the entry cost. Agreed.

Ratification of NRLM's

Gordon R Birks, Richard J Hurst, Thomas R Sharp, Adrienne P Sharp, Ian J Carey. All Elected

Library Update

Ringling Worlds are in my spare room, until the final location for the library can be found. Thanks to Mary Garner for helping to transport them to me from Ipswich. Work on cataloguing the collection is starting in Ipswich Records Office in early spring. If any ringers would like to volunteer to help and learn about archiving, we could probably be accommodated. I will check details and then communicate this to the Guild.

We have the Ringing World DVD, currently on loan to Alex Tatlow. I have backed up a copy of it onto my computer. We have received a few donations to the collection.

The full library report will appear in the Annual Report.

Abby Antrobus

Guild Magazine

Advertising continues to be a problem. AS handed out a guide to how advertising works. He continues to have positive feedback for the magazine. Copy deadline is 28th February for current copy.

RK expressed concern about the number of copies laying in towers unread. He also suggested that there should be an obituary column included in the magazine. PJG suggested that instead of an obituary there could be a reflection on the life of the deceased.

Sudbury St Peter

The Guild apparently owns two of the bells. Clarification needs to be sought over the actual ownership.

When the church closed the bells were going to be hung dead. The Guild stepped in with the funds to rehang them for ringing. The bells are looked after by Alan Mayle but the Churches Conservation Trust is responsible for the bells. A discussion ensued regarding the official position of who was responsible for looking after the tower and ringing there. Alan is happy to continue as he has been but would not want to be regarded as an official Guild Officer if it was felt that there was a need to appoint someone. The meeting felt that this was not necessary. The bells are rung once a month at the moment. John Smith has started a regular 10 bell practice.

Any Other Matters arising

The Guild Social was very successful and appreciated.

George Pipe has agreed to withdraw his nomination of John Blatchley as a Life Honorary Member.

Mary Garner, Gillian Wakefield and Trevor Hughes have been proposed as Life Honorary Members

Parish Affiliation Scheme is to be taken on by RM

MG has attended a day training day for Child Protection

MS to write to Sal Burrows and Jim thanking them for their work with the Parish Affiliation Scheme.

Correspondence

GWP has written a letter to PJG stating that George Vestey has been appointed as a Lay Canon at the Cathedral

St Peter Mancroft has embarked on a scheme to improve the ringing facilities. PJG has written supporting this.

Any other Business

Guild Social is being hosted by NW District on 30th July.

Date of Next Meeting Sunday June 19th 2.30pm Stowupland